DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 073 932 SE 015 820

TITLE	United Nations Action for the Protection of the Human Environment. Reports of Action by the General Assembly (27th, New York, October and November, 1972).
INSTITUTION	Community Development Foundation, New York, N.Y.
PUB DATE	Nov 72
NOTE	100p.
EDRS PRICE	MF-$0.65 HC-$3.29
DESCRIPTORS	Activities; Developed Nations; Developing Nations; *Environment; *Government Role; Human Relations; *International Organizations; *Reports; World Affairs
IDENTIFIERS	*United Nations

ABSTRACT

In this series of United Nations documents, reports of action by the 27th General Assembly are covered. Draft resolutions introduced by various governments are furnished together with press releases which summarize the statements made by the governments participating in the debate of the Second Committee. These resolutions and statements are of importance to those interested in international aspects of the protection of the environment. They reveal the various interests and concerns of the governments and groups of governments as well as the attitudes and problems which will continue to be factors affecting the development of programs for international and cooperative action. A statement by Maurice Strong, Secretary-General of the UN Conference on the Human Environment, before the General Assembly, is also supplied. This document has been prepared as a service to facilitate communication and cooperation between non-governmental organizations, the United Nations and member governments for the protection of the human environment. (BL)

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ED 073932

UNITED NATIONS ACTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

REPORTS OF ACTION BY THE 27TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 1972

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A SERVICE TO FACILITATE COMMUNICATION AND COOPERATION BETWEEN NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, THE UNITED NATIONS AND MEMBER GOVERNMENTS FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT.

PRODUCED BY: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION
345 EAST 46TH STREET
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10017

SE 015 820

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DEVELOPMENT
FOUNDATION

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Dear Friends Concerned with the
Protection of the Human Environment:

Attached is a series of United Nations documents under the heading "United Nations Action for the Protection of the Human Environment." This covers reports of action by the 27th General Assembly during October and November of 1972.

These documents include the various draft resolutions as introduced by various governments. They also include press releases which summarize the statements made by the governments participating in the debate of the Second Committee.

These resolutions and these statements are of importance to those interested in international aspects of the protection of the environment. They reveal the various interests and concerns of the various governments and groups of governments. They reveal attitudes and problems which will continue to be factors affecting the development of programs for international and cooperative action.

As this set of documents goes into the mail, it is apparent that there is a high level of agreement for the adoption of the Stockholm recommendations.

The vote on Resolution 1228 carried with 115 votes for the resolution, none opposed and 9 abstaining. The countries abstaining have indicated that they are not in disagreement in principle with the substance of the program. Resolution 1228 provides the institutional and financial arrangements for international environmental cooperation.

It provides for the cooperation with non-governmental organizations in Section IV, Paragraph 18, which "Invites also other intergovernmental and those non-governmental organizations which have an interest in the field of the environment to lend their full support and collaboration to the United Nations with a view to achieving the largest possible degree of cooperation and coordination."

The distribution of these documents is a service provided by the Community Development Foundation as a means of helping to implement one of the provisions of the final report of the New York NGO Conference which has recommended the opening up of communication and the free flow of information throughout the United Nations, governmental and non-governmental organization networks.

Sincerely,

Glen Leet
President

GL:ra
November 10, 1972

PART I

UNITED NATIONS DOCUMENTS
of Second Committee

Statement by Maurice F. Strong, Secretary General of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment before the Second Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations, New York, N. Y., 19 October 1972

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CAUTION: ADVANCE TEXT

19 October 1972

For use on delivery
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Statement by Maurice F. Strong
Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference
on the Human Environment

before the Second Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations
New York, 19 October 1972

Mr. Chairman,

Four years ago the General Assembly unanimously decided to convene the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment. That Conference was held in Stockholm in June of this year. It is not necessary to emphasise the extent to which the environmental issue has grown over this period, both in importance and urgency, and in heightened public awareness of it. But the General Assembly anticipated, and indeed stimulated, this development when it decided that the United Nations must be the centre of international environmental action.

The results of the Stockholm Conference lie before you. They represent the culmination of a long process of preparation and discussion involving almost all the nations of the world, the United Nations family; and countless other organizations - both governmental and non-governmental - and individuals with deep concern in this matter.

Unhappily, the Conference did not have that universal character which we had hoped it would have - and which the environmental issue ulitmately requires. A number of states felt unable to participate, despite their keen interest in the environmental issue, and their most valuable contribution to the Preparatory Process.

I wish to record our profound thanks to all who contributed to this great international venture and, in particular, to the Government of Sweden, whose support, indefatigable hard work and imaginative vision, played such a vital part in the success of the Conference.

The Conference itself brought together governments of 113 nations which met together in a spirit of t steeship for all life on this planet and for life in the future; they discharged their solemn duty in an atmosphere of mutual respect, understanding, and sympathy - bound together by the knowledge that unless we conquer our divisions, our greeds, our inhibitions, and our fears, they will conquer us.

.../

Stockholm launched a new liberation movement - liberation from man's thralldom to the new destructive forces which he, himself, has created. It also brought new force and determination to our drive for liberation from the continuing evils of mass poverty, economic and social injustice, racial prejudice, and the technologies of modern warfare which constitute such grave insults to the dignity of mankind and the greatest barriers to the achievement of a decent human environment for all.

The Preparatory Process and the Conference, built on the pioneering work of so many, gave us new insights and perspectives and stirred new excitement and hope. Above all, it provided a practical basis for the realisation of that hope - the essential framework for inter-governmental action and intensified public support for such action. These were the principal objectives envisaged by this Assembly in convening the Conference. Stockholm was both the culmination of the Preparatory Process and the beginning of the Action Process. The momentum evidenced by Stockholm has been carried forward since the Conference in the actions of national governments, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, including the scientific community. But this is only the beginning. The continuation of the Action Process now depends upon the decisions which this Assembly is being called upon to take.

Perhaps the most striking feature of the Preparatory Process and the Conference was this - the realisation that the environmental issues are inextricably linked with all other factors in contempory world politics; that we urgently require not only a new perception of man's relationship with the natural world, but with man's relationship with man; that the problems of the rich cannot be seen in isolation from those of the poor; that in all respects we inhabit Only One Earth.

What, then, are the central implications of this approach? Stockholm has confirmed that the environment issue cannot be conceived in narrow defensive or parochial terms, but in the possibilities it opens up to bring new energies, new perspectives, and a new will to the resolution of the fundamental imbalances and conflicts which continue to afflict mankind. For the developing countries, environmental considerations add a new dimension to the concept of development - involving not merely the avoidance of newly perceived dangers, but the realisation of promising new opportunities. For the richer nations, it provides a dramatic illustration of the new interdependencies which the technological society has created, and new reasons for a deeper and sustained commitment to a more equitable sharing of its benefits with the developing world. Thus, there can be no fundamental conflict between development and environment; they are integral and indivisible.

It is this larger vision of the environment issue which emerged from Stockholm, and which I know will inspire and guide this Assembly when it considers the results of the Conference, and the action which is now required to implement its recommendations and maintain its momentum.

Mr. Chairman, the adoption by the Conference of the Declaration on the Human Environment represents a major achievement, particularly in view of the difficult issues with which it deals. These very difficulties emphasised the importance

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which governments attached to the Declaration. It is the first acknowledgement by the community of nations of new principles of behaviour and responsibility which must govern their relationship in the environmental era. And it provides an indispensable basis for the establishment and elaboration of new codes of international law and conduct which will be required to give effect to the principles set out in the Declaration.

The Action Plan for the Human Environment also adopted by the Conference, consists of 109 recommendations for environmental action at the international level, to be taken principally by governments and the United Nations system. Many of them require extensive co-operation with, and complementary action from, other inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations and citizens' groups. These recommendations - which constitute a turning point in man's endeavours to preserve and protect his planetary heritage - will be dealt with within a fundamental framework, which divides them into three broad categories, including:

- A far-ranging "Earth Watch Programme" of global assessment and monitoring, to help provide the knowledge required to enable societies to evaluate the real consequences of the decisions by which they are shaping their own futures;

- Environmental Management Activities to assist in implementing these decisions;

- Supporting measures in the fields of public education, technical and financial assistance.

In addition to these recommendations, the Conference also referred to governments, for their consideration and appropriate action, certain recommendations for action at the national level, where, of course, most environmental decisions must be taken. International action must be firmly rooted in the decisions and responsbilities of national governments.

The Action Plan should not be regarded as a final programme but as a planned approach to international environmental action which will have to be continuously adjusted in response to evolving needs and priorities.

Since the Stockholm Conference, steps have been taken within the secretariat and elsewhere to initiate the task of elaborating from the Action Plan recommendations the programme proposals which could be laid before the proposed new Governing Council.

But, Mr. Chairman, it is important to bear in mind that the Stockholm Conference did not limit itself solely to deciding on the nature of the action needed to meet the environmental challenge. It also addressed itself to the question of providing the means for such action. It unanimously adopted a resolution on institutional and financial arrangements for international environmental co-operation in which it recommended the establishment of new machinery within the United Nations for undertaking environmental activities. This is the third main product of the Conference, and the principal one which requires the action of this Assembly.

.../

These recommendations represent a strong affirmation by the governments represented at Stockholm that the focal point for international environmental cooperation should be the United Nations, and an expression of their intention that the organization of environmental activities within the United Nations should serve to strengthen the United Nations system as a whole.

An important theme running through the recommendations is that the machinery to be created should be designed to make best possible use of existing facilities and resources. Thus the Conference did not recommend the establishment of a new specialized agency, but rather a policy-oriented central mechanism which could do this effectively.

A third consideration is that the functioning of the proposed new machinery should take account of the variation in environmental problems from nation to nation and from region to region, and that the work programme to be undertaken by the machinery should have a strong regional orientation.

Finally, I would say that the proposed machinery is envisaged as a source of assistance to governments in dealing with their own environmental problems and formulating appropriate policies, as well as in cooperating with each other in attacking problems whose solution must necessarily be multinational.

Thus, Mr. Chairman, in considering the Stockholm resolution on institutional and financial arrangements, it is important to recognize that its object is to provide governments with the means to cooperate in formulating environmental policies and reviewing their implementation.

The key role would be played by the proposed Governing Council, which would be the main instrument through which governments will give policy guidance for direction and coordination of environmental programmes undertaken in the United Nations system.

.../

The Conference recommended that the inter-governmental body should report annually to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council. This would permit the Council to consider the environmental activities of the system in relation to its economic and social activities, and thereby facilitate the exercise of its coordinating responsibilities under the Charter.

The environment secretariat which the Conference recommended would serve the Council. In the words of the resolution it is to be "a focal point for environmental action and cooperation within the United Nations system".

I believe that the General Assembly has a rare opportunity to exemplify in the organizational machinery it establishes to deal with environmental matters the structure and approach to management and co-ordination that will be required for the environmental age. Equally, the formal actions which the Assembly takes must be supported by the kind of approach and techniques of operation at the secretariat level which will enable this to be achieved.

Perhaps I might be permitted to give my own views on this matter, in the light of our experience of the preparatory process. The secretariat should be small and flexible and should see its role as one of providing, at the international level, the framework or system within which a multitude of other activities that bear on the health of the environment can be seen, evaluated and dealt with.

It follows from this that it should not seek to set itself up as a centre of technical expertise competing with existing centres. Rather it should draw to the maximum extent possible on the expertise which already exists in governments, in inter-governmental and non-governmental international organizations and in the technological and scientific communities. It should do this through a network of working arrangements both with the sources of information and expertise and with those who wish to make use of its services. It should set up ad hoc arrangements to deal with particular issues as they arise and preclude the need for cumbersome permanent machinery. In this context the role of the proposed Environmental Co-ordinating Board would be of great importance

between the

The Secretariat would operate on the interface/ scientific and technological world and the political decision-making process, and should, therefore, have close links with both worlds. It should be based on the reality that most actions and most of the institutions required to support agreed action are national in character - that the prime role at the international level is to complement, support and facilitate national efforts in those areas where co-operation amongst nations is needed.

.../

The present plans for the environment secretariat provide for a core staff of some twenty professionals to be financed out of the regular budget. The cost of this core secretariat would be below the $1.5 million mentioned in the Secretary-General's foreword to the 1973 budget estimates. The report on the question of the location of the secretariat which was requested by the Conference will be submitted to you shortly.

The proposed Environment Fund is designed to support the policy and programme objectives established by governments through the Governing Council. It would help to provide the international funding required to enable agreed programme activities to proceed with the greatest possible participation by national and other institutions. By using wisely the relatively modest resources of the Fund as a stimulant, a catalyst, and a supplement to other sources of funding, the new organization would be in a position to influence and facilitate the effective utilization of the vastly larger sums that will be spent on the environmental activities with which it will be concerned by national governments and other intergovernmental and non-governmental bodies. This role would be of particular significance to developing countries in facilitating their full participation in environmental programmes.

The creation of the Fund would respond to the important principle of additionality, as it would be in addition to the funds available for development financing. But this does not, of course, satisfy the need for the much larger financial resources that developing countries will require to deal with their basic environment and development needs. Stockholm made clear the high and continuing priority that must be given to this all-important problem. However, the concern of the Governing Council for major environmental problems need not be limited by the size of the Fund. There will, undoubtedly, be opportunities for the mobilization of additional funds from the world community to deal with particular environmental concerns - as, for example, the demonstrable and urgent needs in the field of human settlements.

Thus, Mr. Chairman, the efforts of the past four years and the hopes that Stockholm has opened up for the future rest upon the results of the deliberations which you begin today. We are entering the Action Process.

The General Assembly of the United Nations, which initiated the Preparatory Process and the Stockholm Conference, is the supreme authority to carry forward this Action Process. To establish the Governing Council. To establish the Fund and the Secretariat which will enable the Action Plan to be implemented. In short, to build the essential framework for the continuing commitment to our Earth's growing need for international environmental cooperation. I am confident that the Assembly which had the vision to begin this historic task will now seize the opportunity to carry it through.

Mr. Chairman, the central theme of our age is interdependence - the interdependence of all the elements which sustain life on this planet; the interdependence of man with these elements; the interdependence of the natural physical systems with man's needs and aspirations; and, most of all, man's interdependence with man.

This will be achieved not by a denial of national sovereignty but by new and more effective means of enabling nations to exercise this sovereignty collectively where they can no longer exercise it effectively alone. We are not moving towards an ephemeral supra-nationalism, but towards a wider, deeper and more realistic

.../

conception of the responsibilities of individual nation-states towards their neighbours, and towards the preservation and enhancement of all life on this planet.

The long range importance of Stockholm will be evidenced in the kind of actions to which it gave rise in changing the perceptions, the attitudes and practices which are responsible for our present dilemma.

We must recognize that the difficult choices remain to be made, and that they cannot be made solely by governments or international organizations. They must rest on the willingness and ability of people to see that the relentless pursuit of narrow concepts of individual and national interests, which has done so much to us towards higher material standards, now constitutes a grave peril to our physical as well as our moral survival.

I do not believe these forces need be extinguished, but they must be modified, controlled and directed by an over-riding commitment to the common interests and to the kind of co-operative behaviour needed to ensure the well-being of the whole human family.

Stockholm has shown that this is not an impossible dream. It has shown - both in the preparatory process and at the Conference itself - that the United Nations system, contrary to the many doubts which have been expressed about it, can face up to the problems of our day and time. It has shown the depth of experience and knowledge which it can mobilize, and it has shown that these diverse elements can work together harmoniously and creatively when presented with the challenge of achieving a common goal. And I am convinced that the system can respond to the new responsibilities which the Assembly now faces to work towards solutions for the the environmental problems of our Only One Earth.

For if the United Nations reflects the weaknesses and divisions of our troubled and turbulent world, it also enshrines its hopes and aspirations. It alone provides the unique instrumentality through which men and nations can realize those hopes and aspirations. The General Assembly now has a great opportunity to bring new strength and purpose to that instrumentality. In doing so, it will be discharging its larger responsibilities to mankind, and its trusteeship for generations yet unborn. It has been a privilege for me to have served the United Nations in this cause.

UNITED NATIONS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Distr.
LIMITED

A/C.2/L.1227
16 October 1972
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

Twenty-seventh session
SECOND COMMITTEE
Item 47 of the agenda

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, India, Iran, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Madagascar, Morocco, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Spain, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela and Yugoslavia: draft resolution

Co-operation between States in the field of the human environment

The General Assembly,

Having considered the text of Principle 20, which appeared in document A/CONF.48/4 and the amendments thereto, referred for their consideration by the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held at Stockholm from 5 to 16 June 1972,

Recalling its resolution 2849 (XXVI) of 20 December 1971 on development and the environment, and

Bearing in mind that, in exercising their sovereignty over their natural resources, States must seek, through effective bilateral and multilateral co-operation or through regional machinery, to preserve and improve the environment,

1. Emphasizes that, in the exploration, exploitation and development of their natural resources, States must not produce significant harmful effects in zones situated outside their national jurisdiction;

2. Recognizes that co-operation between States in the field of the environment, including co-operation for the implementation of Principles 21 and 22 of the "Declaration on the Human Environment", will be effectively achieved if official and public knowledge is provided of the technical data relating to the

work to be carried out by States within their national jurisdiction with a view to avoiding significant harm which may occur in the human environment of the adjacent area;

3. Recognizes further that the technical data referred to in the preceding paragraph will be given and received in the best spirit of co-operation and good neighbourliness, without this being construed as enabling each State to delay or impede the programmes and projects of exploration, exploitation and development of the natural resources of the States in whose territories such programmes and projects are carried out.

UNITED NATIONS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Distr.
LIMITED

A/C.2/L.1228
16 October 1972

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Twenty-seventh session
SECOND COMMITTEE
Agenda item 47

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Iran, Kenya, Jamaica, New Zealand, Swaziland, Sweden, United Republic of Tanzania and United States of America: draft resolution

Institutional and financial arrangements for international environmental co-operation

The General Assembly,

Convinced of the need for prompt and effective implementation by Governments and the international community of measures designed to safeguard and enhance the human environment for the benefit of present and future generations of man,

Recognizing that responsibility for action to protect and enhance the human environment rests primarily with Governments and, in the first instance, can be exercised more effectively at the national and regional levels,

Recognizing that environmental problems of broad international significance fall within the competence of the United Nations system,

Bearing in mind that international co-operative programmes in the environment field must be undertaken with due respect to the sovereign rights of States and in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and principles of international law,

Mindful of the sectoral responsibilities of the organizations of the United Nations system,

Conscious of the significance of regional and subregional co-operation in the field of the human environment and of the important role of the regional economic commissions and other regional intergovernmental organizations,

Emphasizing that problems of the human environment constitute a new and important area for international co-operation and that the complexity and interdependence of such problems require new approaches,

Recognizing that the relevant international scientific and other professional communities can make an important contribution to international co-operation in the field of the human environment,

Conscious of the need for processes within the United Nations system which would effectively assist developing countries to implement environmental policies and programmes compatible with their development plans, and to participate meaningfully in international environmental programmes,

Convinced that, in order to be effective, international co-operation in the field of the human environment requires additional financial and technical resources,

Aware of the urgent need for a permanent institutional arrangement within the United Nations for the protection and improvement of the human environment,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (A/8783),

I

Governing Council for Environmental Programmes

1. Decides to establish the Governing Council for Environmental Programmes composed of 54 members elected by the General Assembly for three-year terms on the basis of equitable geographical distribution following General Assembly resolution 2847 (XXVI);

2. Decides further that the Governing Council shall have the following main functions and responsibilities:

(a) To promote international co-operation in the environment field and to recommend, as appropriate, policies to this end;

(b) To provide general policy guidance for the direction and co-ordination of environmental programmes within the United Nations system;

(c) To receive and review the periodic reports of the Executive Director, referred to in paragraph 4 below, on the implementation of environmental programmes within the United Nations system,

(d) To keep under review the world environmental situation in order to ensure that emerging environmental problems of wide international significance should receive appropriate and adequate consideration by Governments;

(e) To promote the contribution of the relevant international scientific and other professional communities to the acquisition, assessment and exchange of environmental knowledge and information and, as appropriate, to the technical aspects of the formulation and implementation of environmental programmes within the United Nations system;

(f) To maintain under continuing review the impact of national and international environmental policies and measures on developing countries, as well as the problem of additional costs that might be incurred by developing countries in the implementation of environmental programmes and projects, to ensure that such programmes and projects shall be compatible with the development plans and priorities of those countries;

(g) To review and approve annually the programme of utilization of resources of the Environment Fund referred to in section III below;

3. Decides further that the Governing Council shall report annually to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council, which will transmit to the General Assembly such comments on the report as it may deem necessary, particularly with regard to questions of co-ordination and to the relationship of environment policies and programmes within the United Nations system to over-all economic and social policies and priorities;

II

Environment secretariat

4. Decides that a small secretariat shall be established in the United Nations to serve as a focal point for environmental action and co-ordination within the United Nations system in such a way as to ensure a high degree of effective management

5. Decides further that the environment secretariat shall be headed by the Executive Director, who shall be elected by the General Assembly on the nomination of the Secretary-General for a term of four years and who shall be entrusted, inter alia, with the following responsibilities:

(a) To provide substantive support to the Governing Council;

(b) To co-ordinate, under the guidance of the Governing Council, environment programmes within the United Nations system, to keep under review their implementation and to assess their effectiveness,

(c) To advise, as appropriate and under the guidance of the Governing Council, intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations system on the formulation and implementation of environmental programmes,

(d) To secure the effective co-operation of, and contribution from, the relevant scientific and other professional communities from all parts of the world,

(e) To provide, at the request of all parties concerned, advisory services for the promotion of international co-operation in the field of the environment;

(f) To submit to the Governing Council, on his own initiative or upon request, proposals embodying medium-range and long-range planning for United Nations programmes in the environment field;

(g) To bring to the attention of the Governing Council any matter which he deems to require consideration by it;

(h) To administer, under the authority and policy guidance of the Governing Council, the Environment Fund referred to in section III below;

(i) To report on environment matters to the Governing Council,

(j) To perform such other functions as may be entrusted to him by the Governing Council.

6. Decides that the costs of servicing the Governing Council and providing the small-core secretariat shall be borne by the regular budget of the United Nations and that operational programme costs, programme support and administrative costs of the Fund established in section III below shall be borne by the Fund;

III

Environment Fund

7. Decides that, in order to provide for additional financing for environmental programmes, a voluntary fund shall be established, with effect from 1 January 1973, in accordance with existing United Nations financial procedures,

8. Decides further that, in order to enable the Governing Council to fulfil its policy-guidance role for the direction and co-ordination of environmental activities, the Environment Fund shall finance wholly or partly the costs of the new environmental initiatives undertaken within the United Nations system; these will include the initiatives envisaged in the Action Plan for the Human Environment 1/ adopted by the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, with particular attention to integrated projects, and such other environmental activities as may be decided upon by the Governing Council; and that the Governing Council shall review these initiatives with a view to taking appropriate decisions as to their continued financing;

1/ See General Assembly resolution ....

9. Decides that the Fund shall be used for financing such programmes of general interest as regional and global monitoring, assessment and data-collecting systems, including, as appropriate, costs for national counterparts; improvement of environmental quality management; environmental research; information exchange and dissemination; public education and training; assistance for national, regional and global environmental institutions; promotion of environmental research and studies for the development of industrial and other technologies best suited to a policy of economic growth compatible with adequate environmental safeguards, and such other programmes as the Governing Council may decide upon; and that in the implementation of such programmes due account should be taken of the special needs of the developing countries,

10. Decides that, in order to ensure that the development priorities of developing countries shall not be adversely affected, adequate measures be taken to provide additional financial resources on terms compatible with the economic situation of the recipient developing country; and that to this end, the Executive Director, in co-operation with competent organizations, shall keep this problem under continuing review;

11. Decides that the Fund, in pursuance of the objectives stated in paragraphs 8 and 9 above, shall be directed to the need for effective co-ordination in the implementation of international environmental programmes of the organizations of the United Nations system and other international organizations;

12. Decides that, in the implementation of programmes to be financed by the Fund, organizations outside the United Nations system, particularly those in the countries and regions concerned, shall also be utilized as appropriate, in accordance with the procedures established by the Government Council; and that such organizations are invited to support the United Nations environmental programmes, by complementary initiatives and contributions;

13. Decides that the Governing Council shall formulate such general procedures as are necessary to govern the operations of the Fund;

IV

Co-ordination

14. Decides that in order to provide for the maximum efficient co-ordination of United Nations environmental programmes, an Environmental Co-ordinating Board, chaired by the Executive Director, should be established under the auspices and within the framework of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination;

15. Decides further that the Environmental Co-ordinating Board shall meet periodically for the purpose of ensuring co-operation and co-ordination among all bodies concerned in the implementation of environmental programmes and that it shall report annually to the Governing Council;

16. Invites the organizations of the United Nations system to adopt the measures that may be required to undertake concerted and co-ordinated programmes with regard to international environmental problems, taking into account existing procedures for prior consultation, particularly on programme and budgetary matters;

17. Invites the regional economic commissions and the Economic and Social Office in Beirut, in co-operation where necessary with other appropriate regional bodies, to intensify further their efforts directed towards contributing to the implementation of environmental programmes in view of the particular need for rapid development of regional co-operation in this field;

18. Invites also other intergovernmental and those non-governmental organizations which have an interest in the field of the environment to lend their full support and collaboration to the United Nations with a view to achieving the largest possible degree of co-operation and co-ordination;

19. Calls upon Governments to ensure that appropriate national institutions shall be entrusted with the task of co-ordination of environmental action, both national and international;

20. Decides to review, as appropriate, at its thirty-first session, the above institutional arrangements, bearing in mind, inter alia, the responsibilities of the Economic and Social Council under the Charter of the United Nations.

UNITED NATIONS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Distr.
LIMITED

A/C.2/L.1229
18 October 1972

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Twenty-seventh session
SECOND COMMITTEE
Agenda item 47

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran, Jamaica, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Swaziland, Sweden, Turkey, United Republic of Tanzania and United States of America: draft resolution

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the responsibility of the international community to take action to preserve and enhance the human environment and, in particular, the need for continuous international co-operation to this end,

Recalling its resolutions 2398 (XXIII), 2581 (XXIV), 2657 (XXV), 2849 (XXVI) and 2850 (XXVI),

Having considered the report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (A/CONF.48/14) and the report of the Secretary-General thereon (A/8783),

Expressing its satisfaction that the Conference and its preparatory committee succeeded in focusing the attention of Governments and public opinion on the need for prompt action in the field of the human environment,

1. Takes note with satisfaction of the report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (A/CONF.48/14);

2. Draws the attention of Governments and the Governing Council to the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment and refers the Action Plan for the Human Environment to the Governing Council for Environmental Programmes for appropriate action;

3. Draws the attention of Governments to the recommendations for action at the national level referred to them by the Conference for their consideration and such action as they might deem appropriate;

4. Designates 5 June as "World Environment Day" and urges Governments and the United Nations system to undertake on that day every year world-wide activities reaffirming their concern for the preservation and enhancement of the human environment, with a view to deepening environmental awareness and to pursuing the determination expressed at the Conference.

UNITED NATIONS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Distr.
LIMITED

A/C.2/L.1229/Rev.1
20 October 1972

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Twenty-seventh session
SECOND COMMITTEE
Agenda item 47

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Nigeria, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, United Republic of Tanzania and United States of America: revised draft resolution

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the responsibility of the international community to take action to preserve and enhance the human environment and, in particular, the need for continuous international co-operation to this end,

Recalling its resolutions 2398 (XXIII), 2581 (XXIV), 2657 (XXV), 2849 (XXVI) and 2850 (XXVI),

Having considered the report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (A/CONF.48/14) and the report of the Secretary-General thereon (A/8783),

Expressing its satisfaction that the Conference and its preparatory committee succeeded in focusing the attention of Governments and public opinion on the need for prompt action in the field of the human environment,

1. Takes note with satisfaction of the report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (A/CONF.48/14);

2. Draws the attention of Governments and the Governing Council to the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment and refers the Action Plan for the Human Environment to the Governing Council for Environmental Programmes for appropriate action;

3. Draws the attention of Governments to the recommendations for action at the national level referred to them by the Conference for their consideration and such action as they might deem appropriate;

4. Designates 5 June as "World Environment Day" and urges Governments and the United Nations system to undertake on that day every year world-wide activities reaffirming their concern for the preservation and enhancement of the human environment, with a view to deepening environmental awareness and to pursuing the determination expressed at the Conference;

5. Takes note with appreciation of the resolution adopted by the Conference on the convening of a second United Nations Conference on the Human Environment and refers the consideration of this matter to the Governing Council for Environmental Programmes with the request that the Council study this matter, taking into account the status of implementation of the Action Plan and future developments in the field of the human environment and report its views and recommendations to the General Assembly so that the General Assembly can take a decision on all the aspects of the matter not later than at its twenty-ninth session.

UNITED NATIONS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Distr.
LIMITED

A/C.2/L.1230
20 October 1972

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Twenty-seventh session
SECOND COMMITTEE
Agenda item 47

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

Jamaica: draft resolution

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment,

Recalling its resolutions 1393 (XIV), 1508 (XV), 1676 (XVI), 1917 (XVIII), 2036 (XX), 2598 (XXIV), 2626 (XXV), 2718 (XXV),

Recalling also resolution 1170 (XLI) of the Economic and Social Council,

Mindful of the aims expressed in the preamble of the Charter of the United Nations to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples, as well as Articles 55 and 56 of the Charter,

Taking into account the World Plan of Action for the Application of Science and Technology to Development,

Considering the important role assigned to housing as part of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade,

Further recalling General Assembly resolution 2718 (XXV) which established broad directions and measures essential for the improvement of human settlements,

Noting the report of the Secretary-General in document E/C.6/106 containing proposals for action on finance for housing, building and planning,

Taking into account the annual report of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for 1970, which inter alia considered that priority should be given to housing and human settlements,

Taking note of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development Policy Statement on Urbanization of 1972 which inter alia reaffirms the important role of housing and human settlement in over-all national development,

Further taking note of the IBRD's recognition of the need to establish appropriate National Finance Institutions to mobilize domestic capital to finance these activities,

Reaffirming in particular recommendations 1, 15, 16, 17 of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment,

1. Recommends that all development assistance agencies such as the United Nations Development Programme and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development should in their development assistance activities give high priority to requests from Governments for assistance in housing and human settlements; 1/

2. Recommends that the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development in its lending policies in this sector should provide funds on terms and conditions which fully reflect the unique nature and characteristics of housing and related investments;

3. Recommends that in establishing criteria for eligibility for loans under more favourable terms and conditions the IBRD should take into account in addition to economic and monetary criteria such critical socio-economic factors as levels of unemployment, rates of urban growth, population density, and the general condition of the housing stock in the developing countries;

4. Recommends further that as a matter of priority the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development implement its stated policy of providing "seed capital loans" on favourable terms, taking into account the recommendations of paragraph 3 above, to establish Domestic Financial Institutions and Organizations to mobilize and allocate capital for housing and related investments;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly on the implementation of this resolution.

1/ See recommendation 1 of the report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (A/CONF.48/14).

UNITED NATIONS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Distr.
LIMITED

A/C.2/L.1231
23 October 1972

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Twenty-seventh session
SECOND COMMITTEE
Agenda item 47

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines and Yemen: draft resolution

Establishment of an international fund or financial institution for human settlements

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (A/CONF.48/14 and corr.1

Concerned with the lack of improvement in the deplorable world housing situation, particularly the critical shortage of low cost or minimal standards of housing in developing countries,

Aware that the human environment cannot be improved in conditions of poverty, one of the palpable manifestations of which is the sub-standard quality of human settlements, particularly in developing countries,

Recognizing the need for intensified and more concrete international action to strengthen national programmes in the planning, improvement and management of rural and urban settlements, and thereby narrowing the growing gap between housing needs and available supply and improving the environmental quality of human settlements,

Noting the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of housing and community facilities (EC.6/106),

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolutions 1170 (XLI) and 1507 (XLVIII) on a proposed international institution to support domestic savings and credit facilities in housing;

Noting in particular Recommendation 17 of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment that Governments and the Secretary-General take immediate steps to establish an international fund or financial institution that would provide seed capital and technical assistance for the effective mobilization of domestic resources for housing and the environmental improvement of human settlements,

1. Endorses in principle the establishment of an international fund or financial institution for the purpose envisaged in Recommendation 17 of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (A/CONF.48/14 and Corr.1);

2. Requests the Secretary-General, taking into account the views expressed on this subject at the twenty-seventh session of the General Assembly, to prepare a study on the establishment and operations of such a fund or institution, together with his recommendations and proposals, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth session through the Governing Council for Environmental Programmes and the Economic and Social Council;

3. Invites the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development to collaborate in the preparation of the study indicated in paragraph 2 above.

UNITED NATIONS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Distr.
LIMITED

A/C.2/L.1232
23 October 1972

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Twenty-seventh session
SECOND COMMITTEE
Agenda item 47

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/L.1228

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 155 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

1. Under the terms of operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/L.1228, the General Assembly would establish a Governing Council for Environmental Programmes composed of 54 members elected by the General Assembly for three-year terms on the basis of equitable geographical distribution following General Assembly resolution 2847 (XXVI).

2. Under the terms of operative paragraph 4, a secretariat would be established in the United Nations to serve as a focal point for environmental action and co-ordination within the United Nations system in such a way as to ensure a high degree of effective management.

3. Operative paragraph 6 further stipulates that the costs of servicing the Governing Council and providing the small-core secretariat shall be borne by the regular budget of the United Nations and that operational programme costs, programme support and administrative costs of the Fund, established under operative paragraph 7 of the draft resolution, shall be borne by the Fund.

4. In view of the nature of the activities to be undertaken by the environment machinery proposed in the draft resolution and taking into account the Action Plan adopted by the Conference on the Human Environment in addition to the role envisaged for the Governing Council, a somewhat different approach to international co-operation and co-ordination is required. These considerations would be reflected in the administrative arrangements proposed for implementing the draft resolution.

5. In estimating the requirements for staff to carry out these new environmental activities, the Secretary-General has borne in mind the need to ensure economy and

/...

effectiveness in launching a new undertaking in the field of environment, and he has also taken into account the possibility that extra-budgetary resources would be provided by the Environment Fund. The Secretary-General has also been conscious of the desire to have a simple, small and flexible staff structure.

6. In exercising its functions, the small core environment secretariat would maintain close co-operation and co-ordination with other departments and offices of the United Nations, in particular with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the regional economic commissions, the specialized agencies and programmes of the United Nations system and with the secretariats of interested intergovernmental and non-governmental bodies.

7. Should the above draft resolution be adopted, it is envisaged that a separate section of the regular budget would be established for environment activities and the 1973 financial implications of implementing the proposals contained therein are estimated as follows:

A. Servicing of the Governing Council

8. It is assumed that the Governing Council would meet for one session in 1973 for a period of two weeks. It is further assumed that a maximum of two working groups would be established during the session for periods of one week each, thus averaging two simultaneous meetings per day with interpretation in five languages. The estimated costs for servicing the session of the Governing Council are ..... $40,000.

9. It is estimated that the documentation requirements for the session of the Governing Council, including pre-session, in-session and the related final report, would amount to approximately 400 pages, to which would be added an additional 300 pages of miscellaneous documentation for the Governing Council to be prepared during 1973. The cost of producing 700 pages of documentation in five languages in mimeographed form is estimated at ..... $120,000.

B. Environment Secretariat

10. In estimating requirements for the new secretariat that would be established in accordance with operative paragraphs 4 and 5 of the draft resolution, the Secretary-General has taken into account the fact that programme support and administrative costs of the proposed Environment Fund would be borne by the Fund, and in addition, he has borne in mind the need to ensure maximum economy and effectiveness, as stated above, in this new structure. It is thus proposed to establish a small-core secretariat for 1973 made up of 16 professional posts, in addition to an Executive Director and two senior assistants. The status of the Executive Director would be commensurate with the functions assigned to him under the resolution, and his remuneration would not be less than that of an Under-Secretary-General. The two senior assistants (one of whom would be designated as the deputy of the Executive Director) would have their remuneration set at the level of Assistant Secretary-General. It is envisaged that the 1973 establishment might be strengthened in 1974 and 1975 through the addition of a small number of professional posts, in order to reflect increased activities.

11. Since the permanent location of the new secretariat still remains to be decided, it has been assumed, solely for the purposes of arriving at an estimate of the requirements for the first year of operation, that the environment secretariat could continue to be accommodated in Geneva, where the secretariat for the Conference is now located. In estimating staff costs for 1973, the Secretary-General has further proceeded under the assumption that part of the staff of the present Conference secretariat could be retained to serve in the new secretariat. Thus the usual deduction for delayed recruitment of 5 per cent has been used for these posts. The normal deduction of 40 per cent for new posts has been applied to the salary estimates for all other posts.

12. On the basis of the above assumptions, the cost of operating the proposed new secretariat in 1973 would be as follows:

	$
- Salaries and wages	850,500
- Common staff costs	166,600
- Travel	61,000
- Hospitality	10,500
- Permanent equipment	81,000
- General expenses	153,000
	1,322,600

13. The financial implications arising from the adoption by the General Assembly of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/L.1228 are thus estimated at $1,482,600 for 1973. Income from staff assessments, estimated at $162,000, would be credited to miscellaneous income in accordance with normal United Nations procedures.

UNITED NATIONS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Distr.
LIMITED

A/C.2/L.1233
23 October 1972

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Twenty-seventh session
SECOND COMMITTEE
Agenda item 47

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

Canada: amendments to the draft resolution contained in A/C.2/L.1227

In operative paragraph 2:

(a) Replace the words "including co-operation for the implementation" by the words "including co-operation by the implementation"; and

(b) Replace the words "effectively achieved" by the word "facilitated".

72-20691

UNITED NATIONS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Distr.
LIMITED

A/C.2/L.1234
23 October 1972

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Twenty-seventh session
SECOND COMMITTEE
Agenda item 47

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

Algeria, Democratic Yemen, Ethiopia, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Nigeria, Pakistan, Somalia, Sudan, Yemen and Yugoslavia: draft resolution

The General Assembly,

Noting the report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (A/CONF.48/14 and Corr.1),

Cognizant of the effective contribution of the secretariat of the Conference and the Preparatory Committee,

Expressing appreciation to the Swedish Government for hosting the Conference,

Convinced that actions at the national level can complement and perfect the Action Plan for the Human Environment adopted by the Conference,

Recalling its resolution 2849 (XXVI) of 20 December 1971 on development and environment and the set of recommendations of the Conference pertaining to development and environment,

Recalling further paragraphs 2 (e) and 5 (d) of the resolution on institutional and financial arrangements which is contained in section III of the report of the Conference,

Bearing in mind Economic and Social Council resolution 1718 (LIII) of 28 July 1972,

1. Stresses the importance of action at the national level for protecting and enhancing the human environment;

2. Calls upon the Governing Council for Environmental Programmes to explore at its first session ways and means of promoting effective regional programmes in the field of human environment;

3. Requests the Governing Council for Environmental Programmes, in formulating environmental programmes, to ensure the compatibility of the implementation of these programmes with:

(a) The policy measures and objectives of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade relating to science and technology;

(b) Policy measures and objectives which are to be recommended by the Committee on Science and Technology for Development upon consideration of the World Plan of Action for the Application of Science and Technology to Development;

4. Requests the Governing Council for Environmental Programmes and the Committee on Review and Appraisal to keep this matter under review and to report to the General Assembly, at its twenty-ninth session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the steps taken with regard to paragraph 3 of this resolution.

UNITED NATIONS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Distr.
LIMITED

A/C.2/L.1235
25 October 1972

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Twenty-seventh session
SECOND COMMITTEE
Agenda item 47

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

Canada, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Libyan Arab Republic, Netherlands, Philippines, Trinidad and Tobago and Yugoslavia: draft resolution

United Nations Conference/Demonstration on Experimental Human Settlements

The General Assembly,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2718 (XXV), which recommended broad directions and measures essential for the improvement of human settlements,

Noting the urgency of the world-wide human-settlement problems, present and future,

Taking into account the World Plan of Action for the Application of Science and Technology to Development,

Considering the important role assigned to housing as part of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade,

Recognizing the need for international efforts to develop new and additional approaches to these problems, especially in the developing countries,

Desiring to maintain the momentum of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in this area through a conference/demonstration on experimental human settlements, the preparation for which should generate a review of policies and programmes for human settlements, national and international, and should result in the selection and support of a series of demonstration projects on human settlements sponsored by individual countries and the United Nations,

Taking into account recommendation 2.2 of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (A/CONF.48/14 and Corr.1),

1. Decides to hold a Conference/Demonstration on Experimental Human Settlements;

2. Accepts the invitation of the Government of Canada to host the Conference/Demonstration in 1975;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare and submit to the Governing Council for Environmental Programmes at its first session a report containing a plan for and anticipated costs of the Conference/Demonstration.

UNITED NATIONS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Distr.
LIMITED

A/C.2/L.1236/Rev.1
1 November 1972

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Twenty-seventh session
SECOND COMMITTEE
Agenda item 47

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

Egypt, Iran, Lebanon, Netherlands, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines and Sudan: revised draft resolution

Development and environment

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2849 (XXVI) of 20 December 1971 on development and environment,

Noting its resolution ____ (XXVII) of __ November 1972 on institutional and financial arrangements for international environmental co-operation,

Noting further the set of recommendations of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment pertaining to development and environment,

Reaffirming the importance of implementing the objectives and policy measures of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade and the need to provide adequate resources for their fulfilment,

Bearing in mind that the funds available to the international community for research and action in the fields of environment protection and enhancement will tend to be scarce in relation to needs,

1. Stresses that, in the implementation and financing of the objectives set forth in paragraphs 8 and 9 of resolution ____ (XXVII) of the General Assembly, such environmental measures and programmes as may also constitute a necessary part of the process of accelerating the economic development of developing countries should receive special consideration in the formulation of programmes and priorities by the Governing Council for Environmental Programmes ;

/...

2. Requests the Governing Council for Environmental Programmes in formulating environmental programmes to ensure, in accordance with the principles set forth in General Assembly resolution 2849 (XXVI), the compatibility of these programmes with the objectives and policy measures of global strategies and sectoral guidelines for the economic development of developing countries as defined by the United Nations;

3. Calls upon the Economic and Social Council to discharge its responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations and paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution ____ (XXVII) in such a way as to enhance the attainment of the goals and objectives of the International Development Strategy and to assure that the development priorities of the developing countries set out in the International Development Strategy are in no way adversely affected or distorted;

4. Recommends respect for the principle that resources for environmental programmes, both within and outside the United Nations system, be additional to the present level and projected growth of resources contemplated in the International Development Strategy, to be made available for programmes directly related to developmental assistance;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to present to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report providing a comprehensive picture within the United Nations system of the distribution and patterns of growth of resources and programmes in various fields, including funds for special purposes, in order to permit an evaluation of their conformity with the over-all policies and priorities of development as established in the relevant decisions of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

UNITED NATIONS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Distr.
LIMITED

A/C.2/L.1237
26 October 1972

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Twenty-seventh session
SECOND COMMITTEE
Agenda item 47

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

Indonesia, Jamaica, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Sweden, Tunisia and Turkey: draft resolution

International Prize for the most outstanding contribution in the field of the human environment

The General Assembly,

Recalling recommendation 38 adopted by the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment,

Recalling also that one main purpose of the Conference was to increase the awareness among Governments and public opinion about the importance and urgency of the problems of the human environment,

Recognizing that effective international co-operation in the field of the human environment should be firmly based on action at the national level,

Welcomes the initiative of the Government of Iran in setting aside an area constituting an ecosystem of global importance to be placed in joint trust with an international agency and establishing an annual prize by the Government of Iran for the most outstanding contribution in the field of the human environment to be awarded through the United Nations. 1/

1/ A/CONF.48/14 and Corr.1, p. 85.

UNITED NATIONS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Distr.
LIMITED

A/C.2/L.1240
1 November 1972
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

Twenty-seventh session
SECOND COMMITTEE
Agenda item 47

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

Canada, Honduras, Mexico, New Zealand and Panama: draft resolution

International responsibility of States

The General Assembly,

Recalling Principles 21 and 22 of the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (A/CONF.48/14 and Corr.1) concerning the international responsibility of States in regard to the human environment,

Bearing in mind that those Principles lay down the basic rules governing this matter,

Declares that no resolution adopted at the twenty-seventh session of the General Assembly may affect Principles 21 and 22 of the Declaration on the Human Environment.

72-21560

UNITED NATIONS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Distr.
LIMITED

A/C.2/L.1241
1 November 1972

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Twenty-seventh session
SECOND COMMITTEE
Agenda item 47

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

Iceland and Norway: draft resolution

Protection of wildlife in the Arctic

The General Assembly,

Recalling recommendation 32 of the Action Plan for the Human Environment adopted by the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (A/CONF.48/14 and Corr.1),

Bearing in mind the need to enact international treaties and conventions for the protection of species inhabiting international waters and those which migrate from one country to another,

Conscious of the fact that a number of wildlife species inhabiting the Arctic and adjacent areas is now threatened with extinction for a variety of reasons, including over-exploitation by man,

1. Recognizes the urgent need to draw up international agreements for the preservation of the wildlife of the Arctic and adjacent areas;

2. Recommends that Governments of all countries bordering on the Arctic, and other Governments whose subjects are engaged in exploitation of the wildlife of the Arctic, undertake negotiations with the aim of concluding an international treaty or treaties for the purpose of preserving the wildlife of the Arctic and adjacent areas;

3. Requests the Governing Council for Environmental Programmes to put this item on its agenda at an early date.

72-21565

UNITED NATIONS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PROVISIONAL

A/C.2/L.1243
2 November 1972

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Twenty-seventh session
SECOND COMMITTEE
Agenda item 47

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bhutan, Democratic Yemen, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Khmer Republic, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, Oman, Qatar, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, United Arab Emirates and Yemen: amendments to draft resolution A/C.2/L.1228

Replace operative paragraph 1 by the following text:

"1. Decides to establish the Governing Council for Environmental Programmes composed of 58 members elected by the General Assembly for three-year terms on the following basis:

(a) Sixteen seats for African States;

(b) Thirteen seats for Asian States;

(c) Ten seats for Latin-American States;

(d) Thirteen seats for Western European and other States;

(e) Six seats for Eastern European States."

PART II PRESS RELEASES

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* For some people these documents were mailed on the 24th. For some they were included in this mailing.

DELEGATION STATEMENTS IN THE SECOND COMMITTEE DEBATE ON THE REPORT

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT - OCTOBER '72

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Twenty-seventh General Assembly
Second Committee, 1466th Meeting (PM)

Press Release GA/EF/1404
19 October 1972

SECOND COMMITTEE RECEIVES THREE DRAFT RESOLUTIONS, BEGINS DEBATE ON REPORT OF HUMAN ENVIRONMENT CONFERENCE

Three draft resolutions were introduced in the Second Committee (Economic and Financial) this afternoon as it began its debate on the report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment. (For background and action taken by the Economic and Social Council at its resumed fifty-third session on this item, see Press Release ECOSOC/3346 of 17 October.)

Maurice F. Strong, Secretary-General of the Environment Conference, opened the discussion, after which the representatives of Sweden, Brazil, Argentina, Canada and Iran made statements.

In his opening remarks to the Committee, the Chairman, Bruce I. Rankin (Canada) noted the historic importance of the meeting and said there could be no doubt concerning the importance of the item before the Committee.

Draft Resolutions

Under the first draft resolution (document A/C.2/L.1228), introduced by Sweden and sponsored by 11 States, the General Assembly would adopt in its entirety the resolution on institutional and financial arrangements approved at Stockholm.

Under the second draft resolution (document A/C.2/L.1227), also introduced by Sweden and sponsored by 20 States, the Assembly would "take note with satisfaction" of the Conference report; draw the attention of Governments to the Declaration on the Human Environment and to the recommendations for national action referred to them by the Conference; refer the Conference Action Plan to the proposed Governing Council on the environment for appropriate action; and designate 5 June as "World Environment Day".

Brazil introduced the third draft resolution (document A/C.2/L.1229) which, with the addition of Syria and Nigeria as co-sponsors during the meeting, was sponsored by 43 States. Under that draft resolution, the Assembly, "having considered the text of principle 20 ... /of the draft Declaration transmitted to the Conference/ and the amendments thereto", would emphasize that in the exploration, exploitation and development of their natural resources, States must not produce harmful effects in zones outside their national jurisdiction.

(more)

The Assembly would also recognize that inter-State co-operation, including co-operation for implementing principles 21 and 22 of the Declaration adopted at Stockholm, would be achieved if "official and public knowledge is provided of the technical data relating to the work carried out by States within their national jurisdiction with a view to avoiding significant harm which may occur in the human environment of the adjacent area".

Such data, the Assembly would further recognize, would be given and received in the "best spirit of co-operation and good neighbourliness", without that being construed as enabling each State to impede the natural resource activities of any other State.

In addition to the report of the Conference (A/Conf.48/14), the Second Committee has before it the report of the Conference Secretary-General (A/8783), notes verbales from the Permanent Representatives of Hungary and Mongolia (A/8688, 2 June 1972, and A/8691, 9 June 1972, respectively), and the report of the Economic and Social Council covering action taken by the Council at its resumed fifty-third session on the Conference report (A/8703/Add.1 (Part II)).

The Committee will meet again tomorrow at 10:30 a.m. when the United States, the Netherlands, Pakistan and Romania are scheduled to be heard.

Statement by Conference Secretary-General

MAURICE F. STRONG, Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, said that the General Assembly had anticipated and indeed had stimulated the rapid growth of the environmental issue by deciding four years ago to convene the Conference. Unhappily, he said, a number of States felt unable to participate, but to those States and all others, particularly Sweden, which had contributed to that "great international venture", he wished to express his profound thanks.

Stockholm, Mr. Strong said, launched a new liberation movement -- liberation from man's thralldom with the destructive forces he had created. It also brought force to the drive for liberation from mass poverty, economic, social and racial injustices and the technologies of modern warfare.

Moreover, the preparatory process and the Conference provided the essential framework for intergovernmental action and intensified public support for such action, the principle objectives envisaged by the Assembly in convening the Conference, he noted. The Conference and the preparations had engendered the realization that environmental issues were inextricably linked with all other factors in contemporary world politics.

Thus, Mr. Strong asserted, Stockholm confirmed that there could be no fundamental conflict between environment and development.

Among the achievements of the Conference, adoption of the Declaration on the Human Environment provided the indispensable basis for the elaboration of new codes of international law and conduct, he said.

The Action Plan of 109 recommendations for action at the international level should not be viewed as a final programme but as a planned approach which would have to be continuously adjusted in response to evolving needs and priorities.

Mr. Strong went on to say that the Conference had also provided the means for carrying out the action needed to meet the environmental challenge. The recommendations in that area -- the third main product of the Conference and the principle one that required Assembly action -- represented, he said, a strong affirmation by the Governments at Stockholm that the United Nations should be the focal point for international environmental co-operation.

Those recommendations, Mr. Strong added, reflected the premise that any new machinery should be designed to make the best possible use of existing facilities and resources and that it should take account of the variation in environmental problems from nation to nation and region to region. In that regard, he observed that the key role would be played by the proposed Governing Council through which Governments would give policy guidance for the direction and co-ordination of environmental programmes undertaken in the United Nations system.

In his view, the secretariat which would service the Governing Council should be small and flexible, constituted not as a centre of technical expertise competing with existing centres but as a body for utilizing currently available expertise, through a network of working arrangements with the providers and the users of information and expertise and through the establishment of ad hoc arrangements to deal with particular issues as they arose.

Conceived in that manner, he said, the secretariat would operate on the interface between the scientific/technological world and the political decision-making process. The cost of the core secretariat, Mr. Strong said, would be somewhat less than the $1.5 million mentioned in the 1973 budget estimates.

Continuing, he said that the proposed environment fund would assist the new organization to influence and facilitate utilization of larger sums of money that would be spent by Governments, and other intergovernmental and non-governmental bodies on the environment. Although it was a response to the principle of additionality, the fund would not, he pointed out, meet the need for much larger financial resources required by the developing countries -- a priority the importance of which the representatives assembled at Stockholm were well aware, he added.

Mr. Strong said he was confident that the Assembly, the "supreme authority" to carry forward the action process, would seize the opportunity to achieve that end.

Interdependence, the "central theme of our age", while not a denial of sovereignty, underlined the need to exercise sovereignty collectively when it could no longer be exercised effectively by nations acting alone, Mr. Strong declared. Stockholm, he said, demonstrated that the United Nations system, contrary to many doubts, could face up to new problems.

(more)

Statements in Debate

Mrs. INGA THORSSON (Sweden) said that Governments would have to make "difficult, even painful decisions, when faced with conflicting interests". Scientific, technical and economic resources must be used to provide both industrialization and a healthy environment.

Governments must "re-think traditional processes of decision-making", and any discussion of global environmental problems must take a stand on the need for "global redistribution of resources". The United Nations, she said, was "the only international body capable of relating national interests with global objectives".

Mrs. Thorsson stated that the Stockholm Conference succeeded in stimulating Governments and organizations to study and solve the environmental problems, to provide a "common outlook" for national, regional and international action, and to identify those environmental problems which could be solved by international co-operation and agreement.

She cited as especially significant the Conference's unanimous acknowledgment of "the responsibility of States for actions affecting areas outside their national jurisdiction".

Now, she said, the General Assembly must take the necessary administrative and financial decisions to establish the machinery recommended by the Conference. She hoped that the Action Plan of the Conference would be translated into a long-term work programme for the United Nations which, she said, would require the financing of the environmental fund at $100 million.

Several considerations must be borne in mind, she said. The United Nations must remain the centre for international environmental protection; the environment secretariat must be entrusted with authority to undertake new approaches to the problem; and she hoped that Mr. Strong would, in view of his dynamic leadership capabilities, serve as Executive Director of the Environment Conference.

She introduced a draft resolution providing for the institutional and financial arrangements for international environmental co-operation based on the Stockholm proposals (document A/C.2/L.1228).

She also introduced a second draft resolution dealing with other questions to be acted upon by the General Assembly (document A/C.2/L.1229).

She said that the environmental problems of developing countries arose from poverty, whereas those of the developed countries arose from over-consumption. She said the developed countries must make "important changes in structures and institutions" and "fulfill their pledges of solidarity with the poor countries".

By such changes, she hoped, the developed countries would respond to the demands by the poor countries to redistribute influence and power within the international community.

(more)

SERGIO ARMANDO FRAZAO (Brazil) said that the greatest accomplishment of the Conference was the programme of action for those broad areas where consensus already existed. The gradual enlargement of the scope of environmental action should be possible so as to provide comprehensive solutions to specific environmental problems of both developed and developing countries.

It was fortunate, he said, that on the road to Stockholm it had been possible to avoid misconceptions regarding the implications of ecological balance, despite "the constant insertion of fictitious concepts in the preparatory work".

The message of Stockholm was one of solidarity and of institutional and ethical reform for the achievement of global development and global security. To that end, environment and development together could become the twin pillars of the concept of collective economic security.

Referring to principle 20 of the original text of the draft Declaration submitted to the Conference -- calling on States to provide information on activities that they believed might have an adverse impact on the environment of other States -- and referred by the Conference to the General Assembly for further consideration, Mr. Frazao said that Brazil had striven to accommodate the differing views.

A spirit of understanding and consensus, he said, had enabled 41 countries to arrive at a draft resolution (document A/C.2/L.1229), which he then introduced on their behalf and commended to the unanimous support of the Committee. The draft, he added, was fully in line with the Declaration and was intended to reinforce principles 21 and 22 of that document.

It also represented the natural development of certain principles of particular significance to developing countries, he said. Regarding the draft resolutions introduced by Sweden, Mr. Frazao said they conveyed a large measure of the accommodation and conciliation reached at Stockholm, and he urged the Committee to view them in that perspective.

He hoped that those States which did not participate in the Conference would find it possible to strengthen the value of its results. Future environmental measures, he stressed, should take account of the particular needs, conditions and priorities of the developing countries, and it was his understanding that the Governing Council would never lose sight of the fact that development plans and projects were the sole responsibility of the States concerned. It was rewarding, in his view, that Stockholm recognized the incompatibility of the conditions of underdevelopment with an acceptable environment.

(more)

EDUARDO BRADLEY (Argentina) believed that the greatest significance of the Stockholm Conference lay in its recognition of the need for international co-operation in the protection of the human environment. He hoped that the Conference's decisions would be implemented.

He pointed out that prior to the Conference Argentina had already established agencies at the national and local level to protect the environment and that private organizations were co-operating.

He endorsed the draft resolutions introduced by Sweden. He attached particular importance to the need for establishing a board to co-ordinate all the international agencies engaged in environmental activities.

He also supported the draft resolution submitted by Brazil which, he noted, specifically mentioned the need for effective implementation of principles 21 and 22 of the Declaration on the Human Environment.

SAUL F. RAE (Canada) endorsed the Conference Action Plan and said his Government would implement its recommendations. He supported the Conference's recommendations for new environmental machinery. The proposed governing Council, he said, should undertake as its first task the establishment of priorities. He suggested that the Council's geographic representation follow the same pattern for the sessional committees of the Economic and Social Council.

He believed that the administrative costs of the secretariat should be financed from the regular United Nations budget and he supported the establishment of an environmental co-ordinating board. In that connexion he suggested that the specialized agencies should clarify their objectives. He recalled that Canada had endorsed the establishment of an environmental fund and had pledged between $5 million and $7.5 million. He believed the fund should be used primarily for "inception" costs for programmes, and that the relevant specialized agency or organization should be responsible for the permanent financing.

He suggested that the principles of the Declaration on the Human Environment, although not perfect, should be left as they were; and that the General Assembly should concentrate on refining the additional principles referred to it. He supported the two draft resolutions which were introduced by Sweden. Referring to the draft resolution introduced by Brazil, he said that he understood its intention to be not only to resolve the disagreement at Stockholm concerning one of the principles of the draft Declaration transmitted to the Conference, but also to reinforce the Declaration adopted.

His delegation attached great importance to principles 21 and 22, as mentioned in the draft introduced by Brazil, and regarded them as the basis for the development of international environmental law. It was his view that the Second Committee should now study carefully all the implications that might arise from the 43-Power draft resolution regarding implementation of those principles.

(more)

FEREYDOUN HOVEYDA (Iran) said that the Stockholm Conference represented a sort of peace with nature, adding that it also had given rise to a more subtle concept of progress. His only regret related to the absence from the Conference of certain countries.

His Government had taken the Stockholm decisions into account in the formulation of its fifth five-year plan, which would go into effect on 31 March of next year.

It seemed pointless to his delegation, in view of the consensus achieved at Stockholm, to examine the Conference report in detail. In that regard he warned the Committee against making any changes of substance. The Committee's task was to take decisions on institutional and financial arrangement, and, in his view, the draft resolution introduced by Sweden on that subject was realistic and satisfactory. What was important, he said, was the degree of authority the proposed secretariat would possess, and for that purpose sufficient financing was crucial.

Regarding the unresolved question of the location of the secretariat, he said that modesty of size and finance, as well as the criteria of effectiveness and ease of communications, suggested the desirability of locating the secretariat in a city where the United Nations already had facilities.

Mr. Hoveyda said that the proposed environmental co-ordinating board should be composed of the actual heads of the specialized agencies or their designated representatives.

Regarding the proposed Governing Council, he felt that informal negotiations could resolve any remaining differences of opinion, making a proliferation of amendments in the Committee unnecessary.

In light of the resolution of the difficulties that had prevented agreement in Stockholm on principle 20 of the draft Declaration, he was happy to associate his delegation as a co-sponsor of the draft resolution introduced by Brazil.

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Twenty-seventh General Assembly
Second Committee, 1467th Meeting (AM)

Press Release GA/EF/1405
20 October 1972

SECOND COMMITTEE CONTINUES DEBATE ON HUMAN ENVIRONMENT CONFERENCE REPORT

The Second Committee (Economic and Financial) heard four statements this morning as it continued its debate on the report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (document A/Conf.48/14) and three draft resolutions introduced at yesterday afternoon's meeting.

Speaking were the representatives of the United States, the Netherlands, Pakistan and Romania.

The representative of Pakistan expressed reservations regarding the draft resolution (document A/C.2/L.1228) introduced by Sweden and sponsored by 11 States, under which the General Assembly would adopt in its entirety the Conference's resolution on institutional and financial arrangements.

Under another draft resolution (document A/C.2/L.1229) introduced by Sweden and sponsored by 20 States, the Assembly would take note with satisfaction of the Conference report; refer the Conference Action Plan to the Governing Council for Environmental Programmes for appropriate action; and designate 5 June as "World Environment Day".

A third draft resolution (document A/C.2/L.1227), introduced by Brazil at yesterday's meeting and sponsored by 43 States reads in part as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Having considered the text of Principle 20, which appeared in document A/CONF.48/4 and the amendments thereto, referred for their consideration by the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held at Stockholm from 5 to 16 June 1972, ...

"1. Emphasizes that, in the exploration, exploitation and development of their natural resources, States must not produce significant harmful effects in zones situated outside their national jurisdiction;

"2. Recognizes that co-operation between States in the field of the environment, including co-operation for the implementation of Principles 21 and 22 of the 'Declaration on the Human Environment', will be effectively achieved if official and public knowledge is provided of the technical data relating to the work to be carried out by States within their national jurisdiction with a view to avoiding significant harm which may occur in the human environment of the adjacent area;

(more)

"3. Recognizes further that the technical data referred to in the preceding paragraph will be given and received in the best spirit of co-operation and good neighbourliness, without this being construed as enabling each State to delay or impede the programmes and projects of exploration, exploitation and development of the natural resources of the States in whose territories such programmes and projects are carried out."

Principle 20 referred to in the draft resolution, which was contained in the draft Declaration transmitted to the Stockholm Conference, called on States to supply relevant information on activities or developments within their jurisdiction or under their control whenever they believed or had reason to believe that such information was needed to avoid the risk of significant adverse effects on the environment in areas beyond their national jurisdictions. Disagreement at Stockholm prevented the inclusion of this principle in the Declaration adopted, and it was referred to the General Assembly for further consideration.

Principles 21 and 22 cited in the 43-Power draft refer, respectively, to the sovereign right of States to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental policies and their responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control did not damage the environment of other States or of areas outside national jurisdiction; and to the need for co-operation to develop further the international law regarding liability and compensation for the victims of pollution and other environmental damage to areas beyond national jurisdiction.

The Committee will continue its debate at 3:00 p.m. today, with Australia, the United Kingdom, Mexico, Japan, France and Chile listed to speak.

Views Expressed

GALE McGEE (United States) said that the Stockholm Conference was a distinct success, as a result of thorough preparation, effective organization and the spirit of co-operation displayed by Governments.

He expressed the hope that the General Assembly would endorse unanimously the Stockholm recommendations on institutional and financial arrangements, and, in that regard, he recalled efforts by his Government to strengthen its national environmental machinery.

He went on to describe other recent developments in international environmental co-operation, including the orbiting by his Government of the first experimental Earth's Resources Technology Satellite (ERTS) on 23 July 1972, the agreement by the scientific academies of 12 countries to set up a joint "think tank" on problems posed by industrialization and bilateral agreement between the United States, on the one hand, and Canada and the Soviet Union, on the other.

The Stockholm Conference resolution on institutional and financial arrangements, he said, would further international co-operation in the environmental field. Regarding the Environmental Co-ordinating Board proposed therein, he agreed with Iran that, to be effective, its membership must include the heads of the specialized agencies.

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He welcomed the pledges of support expressed by those agencies at the joint meeting last June of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) and the Committee on Programme and Co-ordination (CPC).

Taking note of pledges already made to the proposed Environment Fund, including that of the United States, he expressed the hope that more Governments would indicate their pledges at the current session of the Assembly.

His delegation supported the draft resolutions introduced by Sweden, of which it was a co-sponsor, as well as the draft introduced by Brazil. Regarding the latter, his delegation was pleased that disagreement concerning one principle of the draft declaration considered at Stockholm had been resolved.

L. VAN GORKOM (Netherlands) said that, at the Stockholm Conference, the forces of co-operation on the basis of common interest had proved to be stronger than the forces of confrontation. Traditional concepts of economic growth had been confronted with the necessity for reconsideration and modification in the light of environmental imperatives, both in the developed and the developing conntries. It seemed essential, in his view, that environmental problems should be integrated into the Strategy for the Second Development Decade. Within the framework of that Strategy, there was need for study of the implications of environmental policy measures adopted in the developed countries for the developing world.

His Government attached great importance to implementation of the Stockholm decisions and had made, subject to parliamentary approval, about $615,000 available to the United Nations Trust Fund for Development Planning and Projections for activities furthering that end. It had also announced, he added, a contribution of up to $1,500,000 to the proposed environment fund.

Continuing, he said his delegation attached particular importance to the proposed institutional arrangements dealing with co-ordination; a function which, he noted, would have to be performed effectively in order to ensure implementation of the Conference's Action Plan. In that connexion, the Economic and Social Council would have to play an essential role, in conformity with the United Nations Charter.

NASIR RIZVI (Pakistan) said the lesson learned at Stockholm was that the developing countries could not tread the same path that had been followed by the affluent societies. The search for an environmental balance must also seek redressment of the poverty that the mass consumption societies were perpetuating in the developing world. Man's fundamental problem, he declared, was the rational exploitation and equitable distribution of the world's present and potential resources, among and within nations.

His delegation would support the draft resolution introduced by Sweden as well as the draft of which his country was a co-sponsor.

Regarding the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/L.1228, on institutional and financial arrangements, his delegation had reservations. Any new environmental machinery, he said, must provide an institutional safe-

guard to ensure that priorities in the environment field would be in accord with development policies. The Assembly, in his view, must examine critically the Stockholm proposals for such machinery. Moreover, he could see no reason why the proposed Governing Council should be placed outside the framework of the Economic and Social Council. It was not enough, he said, for the Council to transmit with comments the report of the proposed Governing Council to the Assembly. The Council must be allowed to ensure co-ordination and integration.

He urged the sponsors of the draft resolution to seriously consider not only the preservation of "delicate balances", but also the interests of the developing countries and the responsibilities assigned to the principle organs of the United Nations under the Charter.

His delegation agreed with Mr. Strong's statement yesterday that the proposed Environment Fund would not meet the needs of the developing countries for additional financial resources for development. He recalled that it was for that reason that his country had proposed at Stockholm the creation of a special United Nations Fund for Environment and Development (UNFED), and it was his hope that early action would be taken on the proposal.

CONSTANTIN ENE (Romania) said the Conference clearly showed the interdependence of development and environment. He recalled his country's views concerning the participation of the German Democratic Republic, which, as a major industrial country, could not be excluded from the Conference.

His delegation supported the Conference's Action Plan and the resolution on institutional and financial arrangements. It shared the view that the Governing Council proposed in the latter should be action-oriented.

The co-operation required to implement the Conference decisions, he said, could only be achieved on the basis of universality.

Those decisions, he observed, had already stimulated action in his own country in the areas of water resources, noise, atmospheric pollution, among others. Romania's experience in that regard, he felt, could be of use to certain developing countries.

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U N I T E D N A T I O N S

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Twenty-seventh General Assembly
Second Committee, 1468th Meeting (PM)

Press Release GA/EF/1406
20 October 1972

SECOND COMMITTEE HEARS SIX MORE STATEMENTS IN DEBATE ON HUMAN ENVIRONMENT ITEM

The Second Committee (Economic and Financial) this afternoon heard statements by the representatives of six more delegations as it continued its debate on the report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment.

The statements were made by the representatives of the United Kingdom, Turkey, France, Japan, Australia and Chile.

In its consideration of the question, the Committee has before it three draft resolutions. Two relate, respectively, to the questions of co-operation between States in the field of the human environment and to institutional and financial arrangements for international co-operation (documents A/C.2/L.1227 and 1228).

A third would have the Assembly designate 5 June as "World Environment Day", and note with appreciation the resolution adopted by the Conference on the convening of a second conference on the human environment (document A/C.2/L.1229/Rev.1).

The Committee will meet again at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, 24 October, when it will continue consideration of the item.

Listed to speak then are the representatives of Sudan, Sri Lanka, Haiti, the Philippines, India, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Kenya and Algeria.

Views Expressed

Sir COLIN CROWE (United Kingdom) said that among the basic factors responsible for the success of the Stockholm Conference were the secretariats of the United Nations system and a synthesis of material for the Conference and the preparations for it that included much input from Governments. This latter factor, in his view, ensured that the basic papers of the Conference sprang from, and related to, the economic, social and political realities of the real world. In that regard, he referred to the contribution of his own Government and to its national efforts in the field of environment.

(more)

One of the most striking features of the Conference, he said, was its general acknowledgement that environmental considerations should be taken into account in planning economic development.

He then referred to his Government's offer of London to house the new environment secretariat; a city, he said, that provided "many of the essentials". His delegation did not believe that the proposed Environment Fund should be used for development aid purposes; but proper employment of the Fund could not but contribute to sound development.

Recalling his Government's pledge of £2 million over five years to the proposed $100 million Fund, subject to the receipt of other contributions, he said that the United Kingdom's support for the Fund in no way affected his Government's opposition to any concept of additional environmental expenditure in the context of economic development. He expected his Government's aid programme for the latter to rise by 7 per cent by 1975.

He went on to say that establishment of the proposed institutional arrangements would not derogate from the roles of the Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. The Council, he said, would wish to give as much attention to the reports of the proposed Governing Council as it gave to those of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Among the results of the Conference, his delegation was concerned particularly with the recommendation for the establishment of a global convention on the dumping of wastes at sea. In this connexion, he recalled that the Conference had accepted the invitation of his Government to host a meeting for that purpose. Adding that the meeting would start in London in two weeks time, he expressed the hope that a convention would be speedily concluded and as many Governments as possible would sign it.

Continuing, he expressed his delegation's support for the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/L.1229. It also supported the Stockholm resolution on institutional and financial arrangements, but would wish to study the changes made thereto in the draft resolution on that subject introduced by Sweden (document A/C.2/L.1228). His delegation also wished to study the draft resolution introduced by Brazil (document A/C.2/L.1227).

TAHA CARIM (Turkey) said that his country had taken interest in the problems of the environment, because of its interest in matters of urban agglomeration and industrialization. He welcomed the results of the Stockholm Conference and added that the Conference represented the "crystallization of the international conscience" in the field of environment.

As regards what further steps should be taken, he felt that the United Nations was the most appropriate framework for the process of making use of the experience accumulated by various States, whether these States were industrialized or developing ones.

MICHEL ROUGE (France) said that protection of the environment in the broadest sense -- encompassing the problems of the developing as well as the developed countries -- must be based on recognition of the interdependence of development and the environment.

It was necessary for the United Nations system, he said, to inform public opinion of the exact nature of environmental problems. Moreover, environmental protection should not impede the development of the developing world.

France intended to introduce an environmental policy for its own territory and would institute an environmental fund for that purpose.

At the international level, overlapping of functions should be avoided. For that reason, his delegation attached the greatest importance to establishment of the proposed Environmental Co-ordinating Board. The Economic and Social Council, he said, was in the best position to provide over-all synthesis in the environmental field.

MOTOO OGISO (Japan) said that, while recognizing the interrelationship between the human environment and other human activities, his delegation wished to stress that the human environment could have its own standpoint, its own approach and probably its own method for dealing with diverse problems and phenomena. He wished to associate his delegation with those of Iran and the United States in emphasizing that the proposed Environmental Co-ordinating Board should be composed of representatives at the highest level of the specialized agencies.

His delegation also strongly supported the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/L.1229, introduced by Sweden yesterday. Regarding the location of the secretariat, he felt that Geneva would be the most appropriate from various points of view.

He then referred to the Conference resolution concerning the convening of a second environment conference, and said that his Government, after careful study, had decided to offer to act as host for such a conference. For that reason, he said, his delegation had submitted an additional operative paragraph on the matter in the Swedish draft. It had done so, he added, after consulting the Mexican and Canadian delegations, which had expressed interest in a second conference, and with the agreement of all other co-sponsors of the draft resolution.

Sir LAURENCE McINTYRE (Australia) observed that his Government was among the substantial number of countries which had opposed a recommendation for compensation to the developing countries affected by discriminatory trade measures as a result of the enforcement of environmental controls.

However, his delegation agreed that the matter required further investigation, and it thus supported the idea expressed in the Action Plan that the compensation problem should be studied in the newly established General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) group on environmental measures and international trade.

(more)

He suggested that studies of the relative benefits of synthetics and natural products serving identical uses could be carried out with advantage in a large number of fields. Australia was a leading agricultural, pastoral and mining country and faced many of the environmental problems experienced by the developing countries.

Having developed considerable experience in the use of viruses, it had proposed that consideration be given to developing a global programme aimed at evolving viruses that were pathogenic to insect pests.

The only major disappointment of the Stockholm Conference, he said, was the failure of most of the countries of Eastern Europe to attend. Although the Declaration adopted at the Conference was not a legally binding instrument, the intensive negotiations over its wording should ensure its general acceptability.

Regarding the Action Plan, he said that it constituted a compromise on many points and must be regarded as a framework for further consideration and refinement by a post-conference body rather than a literal plan for immediate action.

The Earth Watch Programme, he said, was ambitious and Australia was ready to co-operate fully in its implementation. It recognized that, in view of its geographic location, it might be a logical choice for at least one of the proposed 10 baseline stations to be established to monitor the earth's atmosphere.

Regarding future institutional machinery to be set up, he said that representation on the proposed Governing Council on Environmental Matters should be equitable and balanced; the countries in South-East Asia and the Pacific area south of the equator should be adequately represented on it.

He recalled Australia's pledge of $2.5 million to the proposed Environment Fund, and said that Australia wished to make a keen contribution to the work of the Governing Council.

Turning to the secretariat, he hoped that the proposed Executive Secretary would have considerable powers of initiative subject to the over-all policy guidance of the Governing Council. His delegation saw the Executive Secretary as a co-ordinator who would ensure that environmental programmes appropriate to the specialized agencies were harmoniously developed and implemented by them.

His delegation hoped that a consensus could be reached on the location of the secretariat.

He supported the two draft resolutions introduced at a previous meeting by Sweden and others, and also the draft sponsored by Brazil and others.

(more)

HUGO CUBILLOS (Chile) said that the United Nations could not attach special priorities to a problem like that of the human environment, which was important only to a limited number of States. The text of the Declaration adopted at Stockholm lacked ideological balance, he said, and should be revised. He hoped the socialist countries of Eastern Europe and Cuba would have the opportunity to review it.

He went on to say that, as a result of the control of the media by the capitalistic monopolies of the West, about 60 per cent of which were in the United States, the people of the developing countries were subjected to programmes which deformed their way of living. The developing countries wished to preserve their youth from the influence of the television screen, he declared.

He urged that the sovereign decision of each State be respected, and declared that in no case would a global decision, co-ordinated at council or secretariat level, be acceptable.

Stating that it was impossible to discuss the question of the environment without discussing the war in Viet-Nam, he said that, according to a study, the war had cost the United States about $100,000 million, and the bombs which had dropped in Viet-Nam had created 7,500,000 craters. Fertile soils, he said, were being irreparably damaged. The United States was using the most refined methods to kill the muscles of a heroic people defending their independence.

The Viet-Nam war, he said, had given rise to a mistrust for the white man by a whole continent; they would be more hated than the South Africans or the Nazis. The United States, he said, might sign a peace agreement with Viet-Nam, but it would never be able to sign a treaty of friendship with the Vietnamese people.

Turning to the question of a secretariat for environment, he said that assurances should be given by interested Powers that they would make contributions to finance its operation; for funds needed for urgent matters could not be diverted from the regular budget, which itself was suffering from drastic reductions.

He said that it would be unacceptable should the rest of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), were robbed of their best intellectual qualities so that the new secretariat for the environment could be efficiently staffed.

As for the proposed Environment Fund, he felt that its growth should bear some relation to the growth of the regular budget and that of the UNDP. He proposed that the Fund should increase in the same proportion as the funds of the UNDP, and that any excess earmarked be automatically allotted to the latter, thus ensuring that the capitalistic developed countries would not finance the new fund at the expense of aid to the developing countries.

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UNITED NATIONS

Press Section
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United Nations, N.Y.

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Twenty-seventh General Assembly
Second Committee, 1469th Meeting (AM)

Press Release GA/EF/1407
24 October 1972

SECOND COMMITTEE RECEIVES PROPOSAL SEEKING TO ENSURE COMPATIBILITY OF ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMMES AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

The Second Committee (Economic and Financial) received this morning a draft resolution which would have the General Assembly request the proposed Governing Council for Environmental Programmes to ensure that the implementation of its programmes was compatible with the policy measures of the International Development Strategy relating to science and technology.

The Council would also be asked to ensure the compatibility of its programmes with the policy measures to be set forth by the new Committee on Science and Technology of the Economic and Social Council.

The draft resolution (document A/C.2/L.1234) was introduced by the representative of the Sudan as the committee continued its consideration of the report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held in Stockholm from 5-16 June 1972.

Co-sponsoring the proposal are Algeria, Democratic Yemen, Ethiopia, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Pakistan, Somalia, Yemen and Yugoslavia.

Also this morning, the representative of Canada formally introduced amendments (document A/C.2/L.1233) to a draft resolution sponsored by Brazil and other countries on the question of co-operation between States regarding environmental matters (document A/C.2L.1227).

In the continuing debate on the Conference report, statements were made this morning by 10 delegations: Sri Lanka, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Kenya, Sudan, Algeria, Haiti, Guatemala, Canada and Poland.

The Committee will meet again at 3 o'clock this afternoon to continue discussion of the item.

NEVILLE KARUNATILLEKE (Sri Lanka) expressed regret that the Stockholm Conference report did not emphasize sufficiently the question of controlling the production of synthetics. Such production by developed countries had further impoverished the poor countries and compelled them to subsidize the environmental programmes of the developed countries, which kept the prices of primary products at a low level, he said.

(more)

He also expressed regret that the Stockholm report had not elaborated in greater depth the environmental problems in the developing countries that resulted from underdevelopment and that it had not proposed a concrete strategy to deal with such matters.

His delegation was not happy, he said, at the emphasis placed in the report on the problems of develcped countries, problems which they themselves had created. He also expressed concern at the high priority on the Committee's agenda given to the report of the Stockholm Conference. The situation indicated that developed countries, which constituted a minority in the United Nations and the world, were able to use their power and influence to have problems discussed which were important from their own point of view and not problems which were globally important.

Noting that a number of Western countries had not made any pledges yesterday at the Pledging Conference for the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), he said that some of the funds which would have been contributed to UNIDO would now flow to the proposed Environment Fund. The contributions to the new Fund were likely to exceed and sap the resources likely to be made available to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), he said.

Referring to the draft resolution on co-operation between States in the environment field, he stated that its scope should be broadened. In that connexion, he asserted that the ships of the conference lines frequently polluted the seas near developing countries, affecting their beaches and their fishing industries.

Regarding the draft resolution on the question of institutional and financial arrangements for environmental co-operation (document A/C.2/L.1228), the representative of Sri Lanka expressed dissatisfaction with the principle of equitable distribution as it affected Asian States, and suggested that the proposed Governing Council should have a membership of 17 African States, 13 Asian States, 10 Latin American States, nine States of Western Europe and five socialist States of Eastern Europe.

PETER JANKOWITSCH (Austria) said because environmental policies required an interdisciplinary approach, the work of the United Nations in that field should be linked with its other activities, particularly those related to economic and social development and scientific and technical co-operation. In that connexion, a balance would have to be struck between environmental and developmental action, taking into account the urgent problems of the developing countries.

Mr. Jankowitsch went on to recall his Government's invitation to locate the proposed environment secretariat in Vienna. He noted that the Secretary-General's report on that matter (document A/8783/Add.1) contained further details concerning the Austrian offer.

(more)

Austria, he said would contribute to the cost of the temporary and permanent headquarters and would make available free of charge and without delay the necessary conference facilities.

Regarding the draft resolutions, he expressed his delegations support for the drafts contained in documents A/C.2/L.1227 and L.1229/Rev.1.

It could also support the draft in document A/C.2/L.1228 on institutional and financial arrangements.

RATISLAV LACKO (Czechoslovakia) recalled that the comprehensive programme of co-operation among Member States of the Council of Mutual Economic Assistance, (COMECON), contained special provisions relating to regional co-operation in the environmental field. He went on to say that despite its active participation in the Environment Conference preparations, Czechoslovakia had not taken part in the Conference. The reason, he recalled, was his country's view that the German Democratic Republic, an important industrial state in the heart of Europe "without which the universal problems of human environment could not be solved", and therefore it should not have been excluded from the Conference.

He expressed the hopes that the "discriminative" Vienna Formula would disappear from the scene onee and for all. Future co-operation in the environmental field, he said, should proceed according to the principle of universality.

His Government was studying the results of the Stockholm Conference carefully, but bore no responsibility for them and did not consider itself bound by them, he said.

Commenting on the Declaration, he said it lacked a key principle on universality that should govern international environmental co-operation. Its provisions on population, should have presented new ways of dealing with the population explosion, citing a just division of income, and the elimination of exploitation, among other measures as examples.

J. ODERO-JOWI (Kenya) expressed his Governments' general support for the Conference decisions. No cold-war manoeuvres, political dissension or inter-State rivalries should be permitted to befog the crystal clear issues involved, he said, because those issues related to the survival of the human race.

While the Declaration, he said, placed too much emphasis on the physical aspects of human environment "to the exclusion of social, cultural and political aspects," his delegation supported the document as a whole. However, in its view, the spirit of "one earth" could not be of material value so long as the other "pollutants" of racial discrimination, hatred rooted in political ideologies, and economic exploitation persisted. The 26 principles of the Declaration, he said, were acceptable to his delegation, Mr. Odero-Jowi added, because as a set of "common convictions", they reinforced the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations. The protection and enhancement of the environment must go side-by-side with the primary international responsibility for the "creation of conditions of stability and well-being which are necessary for the peaceful and friendly relations among nations".

(more)

His delegation supported the Conference recommendation on institutional and financial arrangements.

Regarding the Action Plan, he proposed that the General Assembly should, as a matter of urgency, convene a meeting to find ways of implementing recommendations 1-18 of the Plan in the field of human settlements. He noted Canada's generous offer to organize and host a Conference in that regard, and suggested the holding of consultations between the Secretary-General and the relevant specialized agencies to work out proposals for implementing the recommendations to be considered by the proposed Conference.

Regarding recommendations 19 to 69 in the Action Plan in the field of natural resources, his delegation proposed that the Governing Council for Environmental Programmes, together with the interested agencies, plan and hold an "implementation Conference".

The General Assembly, he said, must ensure that the impact of environmental problems did not distort the work priorities of the specialized agencies. He suggested examples of the areas in which those agencies should extend their co-operation to the new environmental body, citing the IAEA, IMCO and WMO in that regard.

Regarding the location of the new environment secretariat, Mr. Odero-Jowi pointed out that not one United Nations body or specialized agency had a secretariat in the "third world". He then went on to cite a number of reasons why Nairobi was ideally suited to serve as host city.

He appealed to the Governments of Austria and the United Kingdom to withdraw their offers, since Vienna and London already hosted major United Nations organizations. The case for withdrawing New York and Geneva required no elaboration, he said.

ABDEL MAGEED ALI HASSAN (Sudan) said his delegation strongly adhered to the Action Plan and to the Declaration on the Human Environment. The international community was now faced with the task of translating the words into deeds, he added.

Introducing the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/L.1234, the representative of Sudan said that the sponsors believed that the gratitude of the whole world to Sweden for staging the Conference should be recorded.

He said the sixth preambular paragraph referred to the need to establish scientific advisory machinery in the field of environment.

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Commenting on the operative paragraphs, he said, the draft resolution was mainly concerned with the application of science and technology to development, vis-a-vis the environment.

While it was concerned with development, he said, it was also concerned with the need to improve the environmental quality of the planet.

The representative of Sudan said that any environmental programme which was incompatible with any country's development programme would defeat its own purpose.

Other co-sponsors of the draft are Algeria, Democratic Yemen, Ethiopia, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Nigeria, Pakistan, Somalia, Yemen and Yugoslavia.

MOHAMED DEHBI (Algeria) said the Declaration on the Human Environment might form the basis for arresting the deterioration of the environment.

For two-thirds of humanity the reasons for such deterioration, he said, were directly related to under-development.

He reiterated his delegation's regret concerning the absence from the Conference of certain States and expressed the hope that their presence in the Committee would strengthen the results of the Conference.

The draft resolution (document A/C.2/L.1228) on institutional and financial arrangements, he said, fell far short of what was needed, particularly from the point of view of the developing countries. In his delegation's view, any use of the proposed Environment Fund not related to the need of those countries would be unacceptable and a provision to that effect should be included.

The central problem was to effect a transformation of man's thinking, he declared, adding that he would be remiss to overlook the situation in Viet-Nam, the practice of apartheid and colonialism.

He said the rich, priviledged countries have refused to accept their historic responsibilities to the rest of the world.

JEAN CORADIN (Haiti) said that new hopes for international co-operation in the political and technical fields had arisen as a result of the Stockholm Conference. Environmental problems were so complex that it was not possible to control them regionally, he said.

There existed a state of interdependence in which the solution of one problem depended on the solution of the other, he added.

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The representative of Haiti considered that such situations as the erosion of farmlands, illiteracy and apartheid were forms of the deterioration of the environment of poor countries which called for an over-all international approach.

The Assembly should take measures to provide for co-operation on a bilateral and multilateral plane. Such co-operation would establish good neighbourly relations between States and also would provide special benefits for the least developed and land-locked countries.

He expressed support for the draft resolution on co-operation between States in the field of the human environment, of which his delegation was a sponsor, but his delegation could not support the amendments to it proposed by Canada (document A/C.2/L.1233).

JUAN CARLOS DELPREE-CRESPO (Guatemala) said that his delegation had participated enthusiastically in the Environment Conference and considered the Conference a success. Environmental measures, he observed, should be integrated into the over-all framework of economic and social development and should not prejudice the development of the developing world.

The cost of environmental clearings should in no circumstances be exported to the "third world".

He suggested there was a need for a formula to ensure implementation of that imperative. New environmental machinery should be established in such a way as to protect the right of all nations to improve the living standards of their people.

His delegation condemned nuclear tests and hoped that the tremendous amount of money wasted on weapons and war could be used for the benefit of peoples who lacked adequate resources.

He announced that his delegation had decided to co-sponsor draft resolution A/C.2/1227 as well as the draft resolution contained in documents A/C.2/L.1228 and L.1229/Rev.1.

His delegation required time for further study of the two new draft resolutions and was of the view that the Canadian amendments upset the balance in draft resolution A/C.2/L.1227, which he said contained a superior formulation.

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J.E.G. HARDY (Canada), introducing the amendments proposed by his delegation to the draft resolution on co-operation between States, said that he was concerned that the draft resolution went beyond the principles relating to the duty to consult and provide information and in fact included an interpretation of the scope and significance of principles 21 and 22. Those principles had been adopted by acclamation at Stockholm, and their preparation involved lengthy negotiations, he said.

Stating that his delegation could not agree with the way the principles had been interpreted, he said that it had been suggested that all that was required effectively to achieve international co-operation on the environment was the provision and publication of information which could have a harmful effect on other States.

The principles involved more than the right to exploit resources, he said; they also involved the responsibility not to damage others in the course of such exploitation. Also they involved the duty to develop new laws and procedures to settle disputes when damage occurred, he added. Thus to achieve such objectives something more than the publication of information was required. In his delegation's view, a much more profound development of measures on international environmental co-operation was contemplated.

Stating that the two principles formed the basis for the development of international environment law, the representative of Canada said that, if such law did not develop, there could be no assurance of co-operation between big and small countries on an equal footing as called for in principle 24 of the Declaration. If the law did not develop, there was no assurance that the polluters would pay, he added.

Mr. Hardy said that the amendments proposed were intended to remove misinterpretation respecting the implementation of principles 21 and 22, the integrity of which should be retained.

ANTONI CZARKOWSKI (Poland) said Poland had always attached importance to international environmental co-operation, and he cited a number of environmental measures implemented in his own country.

His delegation attached particular importance to regional co-operation and for that reason supported the inclusion of an environment item in the agenda of the European Security Conference.

Protection of the environment he said, required a universal approach. Failure to invite the German Democratic Republic to the Conference, he said, violated the principle of universality and it was evident, in his view, that the absence of the German Democratic Republic had removed the universal dimension of the Conference. Therefore, his Government did not consider itself bound by the Conference decisions. Pending further study of those decisions as well as of the draft resolutions before the Committee, his Government would reserve its position.

However, co-ordination, he said, should remain with the Economic and Social Council. To do otherwise would result in confusion with the specialized agencies, he said.

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U N I T E D N A T I O N S

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Twenty-seventh General Assembly
Second Committee, 1470th Meeting (PM)

Press Release GA/EF/1408
24 October 1972

SECOND COMMITTEE HEARS VIEWS OF NINE DELEGATIONS ON REPORT OF CONFERENCE ON HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

The Second Committee (Economic and Financial) this afternoon heard statements by the representatives of nine delegations as a continued consideration of the report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment.

The statements were made by the representatives of Norway, Spain, Yugoslavia, Egypt, Indonesia, Soviet Union, Mexico, Yemen and Cyprus.

The Committee will meet again at 10:30 a.m. tomorrow, 25 October, when it will continue its debate on the item.

OLE ALGARD (Norway), the first speaker this afternoon, said that since the decisions at the Stockholm Conference expressed a carefully constructed consensus, the General Assembly should approve them en bloc without any substantial changes. It was his Government's hope, he added, that although the Conference was not truly universal in character, it would be possible for the Assembly to act on its recommendations in conformity with the Stockholm spirit of understanding and co-operation.

It was of great significance, he continued, that the foundation had been laid at Stockholm for a synthesis between development and environment.

Mr. Algard said it was the hope of his Government that preparations to work out a global convention regarding ocean dumping would be completed this autumn. Such a convention, moreover, should be supplemented as soon as possible by other measures to protect the marine environment.

He recalled that Norway had ratified the Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft, signed in Oslo on 15 February, and he expressed hope that the number of ratifications required to bring the Convention into force would soon be forthcoming.

Norway was pursuing the matter of convening an international conference on the Arctic areas and would approach interested Governments with a view to holding such a conference sometime in 1973, he stated.

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His Government, he said, supported the establishment of a Governing Council of 54 members elected on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, and he reiterated the suggestion, made by his delegation at Stockholm, that Geneva should be selected as the site for the environment secretariat.

Norway, he added, intended to make a substantial contribution to the proposed Environment Fund, subject to parliamentary approval.

JOSE MIGUEL RUIZ-MORALES (Spain) said that the equilibrium reached at the Stockholm Conference had convinced all participating countries of the need to find urgent solutions to the environmental problems which were faced.

He said that international action for the protection of the human environment should not lead to a diminution of international efforts on behalf of the less developed countries.

The Assembly should also recognize that the protection of the environment was not a purely theoretical problem, but rapidly was acquiring a universal character, he said.

The fundamental problem now was to get going, he said, calling on the Assembly to ratify the Conference conclusions as a whole.

He supported the draft resolution (document A/C.2/L.1229/Rev.1), sponsored by Sweden and other delegations, but he stated that his delegation did not think that serious consideration could be given to a second conference, mentioned in the draft, until the new institutional machinery had been established and until the machinery had tested the scope and viability of the complex network of actions agreed upon at Stockholm.

His delegation had no objection to location of the environment secretariat at Geneva or New York. However, in case the Assembly decided to locate the secretariat elsewhere, his country would be honoured to accommodate it.

TARIK AJANOVIC (Yugoslavia) said his Government was satisfied with the results of the Stockholm Conference in the light of the tasks entrusted to it. Despite some shortcomings, the Declaration, in his view, was a balanced document that would stimulate national environmental measures.

It was his impression, he added, that the spirit of conciliation displayed at Stockholm had not been transferred to New York. In that regard, he cited a lack of attention to problems of development in the context of environment. Development, he stressed, was the most important problem before the United Nations and the slogan "Only One Earth" must encompass that fact.

Further, it was his delegation's view that since environmental problems were universal, efforts to solve them required equitable participation. It was his hope, therefore, that an appropriate solution regarding the composition of the proposed Governing Council would be found.

(more)

If the Governing Council was linked to the General Assembly, as proposed in the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/L.1228, his delegation next year would be prepared to urge giving the Economic and Social Council's Committee on Review and Appraisal a similar status. The latter Committee should be an organ of the Assembly.

Contributions to the Environment Fund should be commensurate with increases in contributions to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), he said.

Regarding the draft resolution in document A/C.2/L.1229, his delegation would welcome the convening of a second Environment Conference, an idea it had proposed at Stockholm.

ALI M. SADEK (Egypt) welcomed the formula for agreement on draft principle 20 which was embodied in the draft resolution on the question of co-operation between States in the field of the human environment.

Referring to the draft resolution concerning the establishment of a Governing Council for Environmental Programmes, he stated that more consultation was needed on the first operative paragraph which proposed that seats on the proposed Council be distributed on the same basis as the seats on the sessional committees of the Economic and Social Council. He therefore urged that consideration of the draft be postponed until an acceptable solution had been found.

He said that no aid had been provided for the clearing of minefields planted in his country during the Second World War by the allies. There was a rising death toll among inhabitants and visitors who went to the areas in question, he added.

M. M. PANGGABEAN (Indonesia) said it was a matter of regret to his delegation that certain countries had not taken part in the Stockholm deliberations. It hoped that their participation would now be assured.

His delegation, he said, would support the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/L.1228 except for a reservation on operative paragraph 1 regarding the compostion of the Governing Council. The Asian Group, in his view, was entitled to more seats than would be allotted to it under General Assembly resolution 2847 (XXVI) referred to in that paragraph.

He commended the draft resolution in document A/C.2/L.1229, of which his country was a co-sponsor, for adoption by the Committee. Regarding the draft in document A/C.2/L.1227, he supported the amendments proposed by Canada (document A/C.2/L.1233).

His delegation found considerable merit in locating the proposed environment secretariat either in New York or in Geneva, for practical reasons, he said.

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Environmental measures adopted in developing countries, he said, should not be allowed to cause a further deterioration in the terms of trade of those countries nor should environmental concern among the developing countries result in a diversion of funds away from development assistance. The resources channeled to the proposed Environment Fund should therefore be in addition to development assistance.

KONSTANTIN V. ANANICHEV (Soviet Union) stated that his delegation had refrained from participating in the Stockholm Conference because the German Democratic Republic had been excluded from the Conference as a result of pressure exerted on the Assembly by certain Western Powers.

While his delegation would not object to the Assembly's taking note of the Declaration on the Human Environment, it did not agree with all of the wording of that document.

For example, his delegation did not accept the idea that environmental problems were mainly connected with industrial development, for such an approach tended to overlook socio-economic factors.

Moreover, the Stockholm report did not adequately reflect a condemnation of the fact that weapons were being used in wars waged in certain parts of the world, which affected the environment and the health of the inhabitants of the areas concerned.

He stressed his delegation's opposition to any attempt to restrict State sovereignty.

His delegation could not accept the view that there was a close relationship between the problems of the environment and demography, and it did not believe that such socio-economic problems as housing should be subsumed under the heading of environment.

The Soviet observed that his Government had undertaken measures to create a new technology which would not contaminate the environment.

Referring to a recent agreement which it had reached with the United States, he said the Soviet Union was developing international co-operation on a multilateral and on a bilateral basis.

He said that the universality of United Nations activities in the field of environment was affected by a certain amount of political prejudice. None of the draft resolutions before the Committee sought to eliminate this "political shortsightedness", as a result of which the German Democratic Republic was being deprived of participation in United Nations activities in the environment field. All United Nations activities should be global, he said, and the German Democratic Republic should be allowed to participate.

Miss AIDA GONZALEZ MARTINEZ (Mexico) recalled her Government's offer at Stockholm to be the host for a second Environment Conference which, she hoped, would be held in 1975.

Various Conference decisions at Stockholm, she went on, stressed that environmental measures adopted by the developed countries should not prejudice the development of the developing nations.

Her delegation was a co-sponsor of the draft resolutions contained in documents A/C.2/L.1228 and L.1229/Rev.1, and she commended them for unanimous adoption.

Regarding the draft resolutions in documents A/C.2/L.1230 and L.1231, she noted their similarity of purpose. She suggested that their sponsors might examine them again with a view to avoiding duplication. The draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/1227, she continued, provided an interpretation that in her view, was not compatible with the principle of State responsibility as set forth in principle 21 of the Declaration.

Thus, her delegation could not accept paragraphs 2 and 3 of the draft, she said, adding that its co-sponsors had not accepted amendments proposed by Mexico.

The Canadian amendments contained in document A/C.2/L.1233 were responsive to Mexico's concerns in that regard, she went on, and were supported by her delegation. The draft contained in document A/C.2/L.1227 should be put to a vote paragraph by paragraph, she added.

ABDULLA AL-SHARAFI (Yemen) said that a massive effort by the international community was needed to assist the developing countries which suffered from a scarcity of resources. The developed countries possessed the means to solve their problems, no matter how difficult they might be, he said.

He supported the draft resolution on establishment of an international fund (document A/C.2/L.1231), which he said would be introduced formally at the next meeting of the Committee. His delegation also endorsed the draft resolution on co-operation between States but considered that the amendments proposed by Canada tended to unbalance it.

ZENON ROSSIDES (Cyprus) said that the Stockholm Conference had called attention to the vast dimensions of environmental problems. His Government attached particular importance to the principles of the Declaration concerning State responsibility and, in that regard, was happy to co-sponsor the draft resolution in document A/C.2/L.1227. It also endorsed the draft resolutions contained in documents A/C.2/L.1228 and L.1229/Rev.1.

In his view, it would be appropriate at the time of a second environmental conference to consider methods of ensuring compliance with environmental norms. His delegation therefore strongly endorsed the emphasis in operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution in document A/C.2/L.1227 concerning the obligations of States not to harm the environment of other States.

(more)

He said that in the long run environmental protection was in the interests of developing countries and should be integrated into their development plans. No effort or money should be spared to integrate environmental protection and development, he said.

He expressed regret that the Conference had not been entirely universal and the hope that the divisions responsible for that fact would not interfere with future co-operation in the environmental field.

His Government also hoped that money for the Environment Fund would be quickly subscribed. His delegation would comment on the new draft resolutions when they were introduced.

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Twenty-seventh General Assembly
Second Committee, 1471th Meeting (AM)

Press Release GA/EF/1409
25 October 1972

SECOND COMMITTEE RECEIVES DRAFT RESOLUTION TO ENDORSE PROPOSED FUND OR FINANCIAL INSTITUTION FOR HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT

The Second Committee (Economic and Financial) this morning received a draft resolution under which the General Assembly would endorse in principle the establishment of an international fund or financial institution that would provide seed capital and technical assistance for the effective mobilization of domestic resources for housing and the environmental improvement of human settlements.

Under the draft resolution the Assembly would also request the Secretary-General to take into account the views expressed on the subject during the current session and to prepare a study on the establishment of such a fund or institution.

The draft resolution (document A/C.2/L.1231) was introduced by the representative of the Philippines as the Committee continued its consideration of the report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm in June of this year. The draft resolution is based on a recommendation of that Conference.

Statements were also made this morning by the representatives of Libya, Venezuela, Ghana, Italy, Mali, India, Iceland, Malta and Ireland.

The Committee will meet again at 3 p.m. today when it will continue the debate. Listed to speak are Hungary, Finland, Peru, the Ukraine, New Zealand, China, Trinidad and Tobago and Uganda.

KAMIL HASSAN MAGHUR (Libya), the first speaker this morning, said that the significant principles of the Declaration on the Human Environment should provide useful guidelines for a plan for the international community as a whole as well as for its individual members.

Declaring that his country had been facing a crucial environmental problem for nearly three decades, he said that deadly minefields, widely used by both the axis and allied Powers during the Second World War, continued to take the lives of many Libyans as well as to impede the country's development plans.

(more)

Despite its repeated appeals, Libya had not been provided with maps indicating the location of the minefields. His delegation therefore wished to ask the international community for consideration and understanding of the difficult situation which affected not only his country but also other countries in north Africa.

Stating that in conflicts involving the destruction of life and property the situations in the Middle East and Viet-Nam were similar, Mr. Maghur urged the United Nations to take efficient action to protect and improve the human environment.

SIMON MOLINA DUARTE (Venezuela) supported the draft resolution sponsored by 50 nations which sought to formulate a text for principle 20 of the Declaration on the Human Environment on which no final decision had been reached at the Stockholm Conference. The language of the draft should be retained, he said, as changes in its form and substance would destroy the delicate balance achieved during intensive negotiations.

Regarding the draft resolution on institutional and financial arrangements, he said that the membership of the Governing Council should be selected in keeping with the principles of Assembly resolution 2847 (XXVI) and that the environmental secretariat should be small and highly qualified.

As for the proposed Environment Fund, it should be oriented fundamentally towards the financing of programmes which would benefit developing countries in accordance with priorities established for the Second Development Decade. The Fund should also serve in the transmission of scientific and technological knowledge to the developing countries to assist them in adequately managing their natural resources and in planning their industrial development.

Stating that there should be a close link between the additional financing for the Environment Fund and contributions for development, he said that it was inconceivable that the new fund should be allowed to affect the funding of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Development Association (IDA) and other institutions concerned with financing projects related to the economic and social development of the "third world".

On the question of the co-ordination of environmental programmes by United Nations bodies, he stressed the important roles which bodies such as the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) could play in studying environmental problems of interest to the developing countries.

(more)

E.M. DEBRAH (Ghana) said that the link between development and environment, which was stressed in a number of the principles of the Environment Declaration, was of vital significance to the "third world". Concern for the environment must and need not detract from the commitment of the world community, and more especially the industrialized nations, to the overriding task of aiding the development of the poorer nations.

He therefore welcomed the Action Plan recommendations on development and environment and agreed that because a sound trade environment was essential to development, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade must be directly involved in environmental co-operation, as stipulated in Conference recommendation 103.

Mr. Debrah went on to say that he supported a 54-member Governing Council, adding that the distribution of its seats should be patterned on the criteria for the selection of the enlarged sessional committes of the Economic and Social Council. He also supported the other provisions of the Stockholm resolution on institutional and financial arrangements and would vote for the draft resolution on that subject.

Regarding the Canadian amendments (document A/C.2/L.1233) to the draft sponsored by his delegation and others concerning international co-operation, he said the controversy revolved around interpretation. Was the exchange of information proposed in the amendments part of a process of consultation or was it the only form of co-operation envisaged? he asked. His delegation adhered to the former interpretation, but suggested that both sides might wish to meet to resolve the matter.

He supported the draft resolution (document A/C.2/L.1229) on "World Environment Day", but said the Day should not be a day of ceremony only. He also supported the convening of a second environment conference, stipulating that it should be held in a developing country in 1976.

Regarding the location of the new environment secretariat, he supported Kenya's offer of Nairobi.

PIERO VINCI (Italy) said that in attacking environmental problems there were many national and regional differences to take into account. They included the part played by the more advanced countries in environmental deterioration and the distortions which their campaigns against pollution might produce in international trade and in the development of the emerging nations.

International environmental co-operation was necessary for a world-wide approach to environmental problems, he stated, and his Government gave its full support to co-operative endeavours in all forms.

The Italian delegation, he said, was a co-sponsor of the draft resolutions on "Environment Day" and on co-operation of States. Regarding the latter, he appealed to the sponsors of amendments to that draft not to press their proposals to a vote.

Mr. Vinci had doubts about the wording of certain paragraphs in the draft resolution concerning institutional and financial arrangements. Nonetheless, his Government was in full agreement with the Stockholm resolution on that subject. The Governing Council should be the main instrument for laying down guidelines for concerted action and for the co-ordination of environmental programmes.

Mr. Vinci stated that, subject to parliamentary approval, Italy would make a substantial contribution to the environment fund. The completion and signing of an ocean dumping convention in London later this month would be a good omen for broader forms of international environmental co-operation, including, ultimately, implementation of the Stockholm Action Plan, he stated.

ALPHA DIAW (Mali) said that the developing countries, burdened by poverty and exploitation, attached priority to development. Apart from that aspect of the environmental problem which related to marine pollution, the issue took second place to the problem of industrialization.

The lack of co-operation by the development countries, which was shown at the third session of UNCTAD held at Santiago, threatened to wreck the second crusade against poverty that was launched in the form of the Second Development Decade, he stated.

The United Nations assumed greater importance daily because of the grave problems confronting humanity, he went on. Thus, while the creation of new bodies to aid it in carrying out its complex task was not reprehensible, special care should be taken to avoid having such bodies add to the already heavy burdens of the United Nations to divert its efforts and impede its actions.

NARCISCO G. REYES (Philippines) recalled that at Stockholm his delegation had supported the recommendation for establishing a housing fund. The proposed fund would serve as a kind of "primer" to stimulate domestic savings for the financing of housing. No existing international institution served that purpose, he added.

In his view, no other category of problems considered at Stockholm had a greater impact on daily life than those concerning human settlements. Satisfaction of housing needs posed an almost insuperable problem in the developing countries and was often aggravated by rapid population growth.

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It was encouraging, he said, that the World Bank Group was extending its activities into the area of human settlements and population.

His delegation, he went on, was aware that the proposal for another separate fund was likely to raise "blood pressure rather than money". The draft resolution in document A/C.2/L.1231, however, proposed only the first steps in the establishment of such a fund. He expressed hope that the Committee would act favourably on the draft, which he was presenting on behalf of its co-sponsors.

He went on to say that, subject to a reservation on the distribution of seats in the proposed Governing Council, his delegation was prepared to support the draft resolution on institutional and financial arrangements. The environmental machinery, he added, could not function in a political vacuum. It was, therefore, necessary to improve the political environment, and for that reason, he was gratified at the reconciliation of views represented in the draft resolution on the "Environment Day".

He welcomed the offer made by Canada at Stockholm to provide additional assistance to the developing nations to enable them to incorporate environmental considerations into their development planning.

Nuclear war, he declared, was still the greatest threat to the human environment.

K.C. PANT (India), said the Declaration on the Human Environment constituted the first basic document on a global scale in the field of environment and could provide the framework for evolving and perfecting further courses of action.

Human settlements constituted the essence of the environment crisis in the developing countries, and he hoped that generous support would be forthcoming for the proposed Human Settlements Development Fund.

Anti-pollution measures were of particular importance to developed countries, he went on. However, such measures should not place the developing countries at a disadvantage especially with respect to the application of new technology to production and to international trade, he said.

He would welcome the establishment of a Governing Council for Environmental Programmes, and stressed the importance of avoiding duplication and waste of money and other resources in the process of co-ordinating environmental programmes.

Welcoming the proposed Environmental Fund, he said that contributions for the preservation of the environment should not lead to a reduction in the contributions for development activities.

The representative of India offered New Delhi as a prospective site for the new secretariat. It would be appropriate and indispensable to locate it in a developing country, he added.

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GUNNAR G. SCHRAM (Iceland) supported the Stockholm resolution on institutional and financial arrangements. For that reason, his delegation was a co-sponsor of the draft resolution on World Environment Day. It also commended the draft on co-operation in the environment field.

Speaking of marine pollution, he recalled that his Government was host to an intergovernmental meeting in April, convened for the purpose of formulating a draft convention on ocean dumping, and he hoped a convention on that subject would be completed at the conference being held in London later this month.

Moreover, it would be constructive if the Committee urged all nations concerned to begin work on a convention for the preservation of fragile and endangered Arctic fauna, among them the polar bear, the whale and the seal.

The depletion of marine resources in the north-east Atlantic was also of concern to his country, he said, citing the findings of a recent report that cod-stocks were seriously endangered in the area. His country had also seen the herring-stock practically disappear in the last few years. For Iceland, which did not have access to any other resources, those developments were particularly ominous.

It was against the background of failure to reach an international agreement to avert the threat of marine resources depletion that the unilateral action of his Government to regulate and limit fishing around Iceland must be viewed, he asserted. It was his hope that the new Governing Council would be able to confront such problems, which arose from over-exploitation for short-sighted commercial profits.

JOSEPH ATTARD KINGSWELL (Malta) stated that one of Malta's greatest problems was that of marine pollution. One of the aspects of such pollution was the discharge of oil from ships passing through the Mediterranean. Much effort and money were being expended continously to combat the menace, he said.

Offering Valletta, the capital of Malta, as the site for the environment secretariat, he pointed out that Malta was the base of the recently established International Oceans Institute and was a developing country conveniently situated between Europe and Africa. His Government was interested in serving on the proposed Governing Council, he added.

While his delegation was not opposed to the designation of a "World Environment Day" as proposed in one of the draft resolutions, it did not think that the addition of yet another holiday to the international calendar would result in any benefit. He favoured the amendments proposed by Canada to the draft resolution on the question of co-operation between States.

FLORENCE O'RIORDAN (Ireland) said his delegation had a number of reservations concerning the draft resolution on co-operation between States. While he supported the Canadian amendments to that draft, which, in his view, sought to safeguard the integrity of principles 21 and 22, he would have preferred more fundamental changes. The preamble and operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution were unnecessary, he said, and paragraphs 2 and 3 could be combined, shortened and modified so as not to conflict with principles 21 and 22. His delegation, therefore, opposed the draft as it stood and hoped that its co-sponsors would take note of the reservations expressed, the intention of which, he added, was to preserve the integrity of principles 21 and 22.

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Twenty-seventh General Assembly
Second Committee, 1472nd Meeting (PM)

Press Release GA/EF/1410
25 October 1972

SECOND COMMITTEE HEARS FURTHER VIEWS ON REPORT OF STOCKHOLM ENVIRONMENT CONFERENCE

The Second Committee (Economic and Financial) this afternoon heard statements by nine delegations as it continued its consideration of the report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held in Stockholm from 5-16 June 1972.

The statements were made by the representatives of Hungary, Finland, Peru, Ukraine, New Zealand, China, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda and Oman.

The Committee will meet again at 10:30 a.m. tomorrow, 26 October, to continue discussion of the report.

Views of Delegations

ISTVAN HALASZ (Hungary), the first speaker this afternoon, said that in view of the universal nature of the environment question, it was indispensable that the principle of universality be applied to what had to be done in the field. All States must co-operate on an equal footing, he added.

He said the interests of all nations in environmental problems must not be sacrificed to "narrow political prejudices which last year forced the General Assembly" to prevent the German Democratic Republic from participating at Stockholm. The exclusion of that State weakened the Conference and its recommendations, he believed.

Because the Conference had lacked a universal character, his country could not participate in it and could assume no responsibility for its decisions, he stated. Nevertheless, he said, Hungary was not indifferent to international co-operation in the environment field and would make bilateral and unilateral efforts to promote solutions to environmental problems.

His delegation reserved its right to speak, if necessary, at a later time on the draft resolutions before the Committee. In their present form, he added, it was difficult to take a stand on those drafts at present.

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WILHELM BREITENSTEIN (Finland) said there was a link between the quality of life and preservation of the environment. At Stockholm, his delegation had urged that enhancement of the working environment be explicitly recognized in the preamble of the Declaration on the Human Environment as well as in recommendations contained in the Action Plan.

His delegation would continue to pursue that "man-centred concept" as one of the main objectives of the work on preservation and promotion of the environment, he stated.

Mr. Breitenstein went on to say that Finland recognized the need to attack some environmental problems on a global basis, but it also appreciated that some of those problems were regional in nature. There was, for example, the question of protection of the Baltic Sea.

As to the draft resolution on institutional arrangements, he said it should not lead to a reduction of the role of the Economic and Social Council.

He said his Government intended to submit to Parliament a proposal calling for a contribution of $150,000 to the proposed Environment Fund. He added that all the Nordic countries favoured Geneva as the site for the environment secretariat.

He expressed concern that the draft resolution on international co-operation could be interpreted as categorical in approach and as going beyond the Stockholm mandate, and urged that a revised text be drafted in line with the general spirit of the Conference.

OSWALDO DE RIVERO BARRETO (Peru) said the Environment Conference had given a new dimension to the problems facing mankind and had profound implications for the economic and social structure of societies. His country supported the Action Plan.

However, he continued, the Conference did not produce a lucid understanding of the relationship between accumulation of wealth in the affluent societies, the deterioration of the human environment, and the growing impoverishment of the developing world. Therefore, he thought it necessary for environmental problems to be dealt with in the context of structural relations regarding the concentration of wealth in some areas and growing poverty in others. He spoke of the role of multinational corporations in the drainage of capital, in investments oriented only towards profit and in the imposition of consumer values.

Observing that ecologists, on the basis of linear assumptions related to the mass consumptions, had spoken of the need to limit growth, he said that only by rejecting a model for the concentration of wealth would developing countries be able to develop the values required for reconciling growth and environmental protection.

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Thus, he went on, the new environmental machinery must conduct its activities in close accord with development programmes, and only on those grounds would his delegation support the draft resolutions on financial and institutional arrangements and on the proposed "World Environment Day". The proposed Governing Council, he said, should convene a conference in which experts would be able to comment on various social models for promoting the distribution of wealth and the protection of the environment.

While his delegation supported the draft resolution on the compatibility of environment programmes with the application of science and technology, he would like to see its scope broadened to cover more than science and technology, he stated.

He went on to say that unless the political prejudices that prevented the participation of the German Democratic Republic at Stockholm were eliminated, international environmental co-operation could not proceed very far.

M. Z. GERMANETS (Ukraine) stated his country's forced non-participation in the Stockholm Conference did not mean that the Ukraine failed to be aware of the environmental problems facing mankind.

Development of technology should not serve as a source of dangerous contamination of the air and water, he said, adding that in the socialist countries of Eastern Europe, concern for the environment was an underlying factor in locating industries.

Concerted measures by all countries were necessary to solve the urgent problems of the environment on an international scale, he said. United Nations efforts should therefore include all interested States, since the exclusion of any would weaken such efforts.

Consequently, his delegation regretted the refusal of a number of delegations to accept the German Democratic Republic as an equal partner. It could not see how effective steps could be taken to preserve the environment in northern and central Europe, for example, when the German Democratic Republic, which was located in the centre of Europe and had an outlet to the Baltic Sea, was excluded.

Calling for an end to this unfair attitude, he said he regretted that the draft resolution co-sponsored by Sweden, which itself had an outlet to the Baltic Sea, was silent on the participation of the German Democratic Republic. The United Nations should act as a centre for taking into account the interests of all States, he said.

J. V. SCOTT (New Zealand) said that adoption of the Action Plan was perhaps the most significant accomplishment of Stockholm, and the drawing up of the Declaration, its most difficult and contentious task. Regarding the latter, New Zealand would have preferred a stronger condemnation in principle 26 on nuclear testing, but nonetheless would resist vigorously attempts to upset the delicate balance in the Declaration.

Mr. Scott then recalled that New Zealand and a number of Pacific countries particularly welcomed the Conference resolution that condemned nuclear weapons tests, especially those carried out in the atmosphere, and called upon States intending to carry out such tests to abandon their plans. It was regrettable therefore that, shortly after the Conference, a series of atmospheric nuclear tests were conducted on a Pacific island.

His delegation was pleased to co-sponsor the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/L.1228, regarding institutional and financial arrangements and was satisfied that the draft would not weaken the Economic and Social Council, the role of which New Zealand had championed and sought to strengthen.

Continuing, Mr. Scott said that his Government was prepared to contribute $320,000 to the Environment Fund and looked forward to taking an active part in the deliberations of the Governing Council.

Regarding the location of the environment secretariat, he cited several considerations that, in his view, pointed towards Geneva and, secondly, New York. His delegation also supported the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/L.1229/Rev.1, except for paragraph 4 on the designation of 5 June as "World Environment Day". In New Zealand, he observed, 5 June would be in the dead of winter, thus precluding appropriate activities; he felt that it would be better for each Government to designate a suitable date of its own.

Regarding the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/L.1227, he welcomed the compromise effected therein, but expressed the fear that its co-sponsors, in interpreting principle 20, had severely weakened principles 21 and 22 of the Declaration.

Specifically, in operative paragraphs 1 and 2, the phrases "significant harmful effects" and "significant harm" would give rise to interminable interpretations and clarifications about the meaning of "harmful" and "signigicant", words that were not employed in the straightforward formulation in principle 21, he noted.

More serious, he said, was the "clear implication" in operative paragraph 2 that the co-operation between States proposed in principles 21 and 22 would be "effectively achieved" merely by the exchange of information. The co-operation proposed in those principles was much more extensive, he declared, and went beyond just an exchange of information.

His delegation therefore supported the amendments proposed by Canada as contained in document A/C.2/L.1233.

CHANG HSIEN-WU (China) said that the Declaration on the Human Environment represented a marked improvement on the original draft and reflected some of the legitimate demands of the developing countries. However, his delegation still entertained reservations on certain of its principles.

He reiterated his regret at the failure of the Conference to invite the German Democratic Republic.

One of the main reasons why pollution of the atmosphere was becoming a serious problem in some areas, he said, was the wilful discharge of harmful substances by monopoly capitalistic groups in disregard of the safety of the local people. Another reason, he added, was the policy of plunder, aggression and war wantonly pursued by the super-Powers.

His delegation, he said, was opposed to certain major Powers practising control and plunder under the name of the human environment, and the shifting by these Powers of the cost of environment protection on to the shoulders of the developing countries under the guise of international trade.

The urgent task before the developing countries, he declared, was to shake off the plunder undertaken by imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism of various descriptions, and to develop their national economies independently.

His country was proceeding in a planned way with the work of eliminating industrial pollution, and facts showed that, provided people were masters of their own country and the government truly served the people, the environmental problem arising from industrial development could be solved.

He supported the view that the environment secretariat should be established in one of the developing countries of Asia, Africa or Latin America.

HAMID MOHAMMED (Trinidad and Tobago) said that his delegation could not accord unqualified support for the Conference results. The shortcomings of those results all worked to the detriment of the developing countries. In his view, the Conference gave too much emphasis to despoilation of the physical environment, an approach which would result in focussing attention on environmental problems of concern to the developed countries only.

While it was his feeling that the general attack on under-development might be more successfully carried out as a separate endeavour, the record thus far had been deplorable. Moreover, measures to protect the environment adopted by the developed countries were likely to leave the developing nations even more impoverished.

Environmental degradation also encompassed despoilation of the human personality through such practices as racism, he declared.

His delegation supported the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/L.1227, of which it was a co-sponsor, as well as the drafts contained in documents A/C.2/L.1223 and L.1229/Rev.1. Regarding the drafts contained in documents A/C.2/L.1230 and L.1231, on finance for housing, his Government supported any initiative in that problem area, though it would be desirable for the co-sponsors to seek to amalgamate their texts.

In his view, the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/L.1234 was also relevant and important.

Regarding the location of the environment secretariat, he strongly supported a site in a developing nation. The availability of facilities was, in his view, immaterial in deciding the question, for continuing adherence to that criterion would always favour New York or Geneva.

FRANCIS OKELO (Uganda) said that his Government no longer insisted on its offer to host the proposed environment secretariat; it was being done in favour of Kenya's offer.

He went on to say that, at Stockholm, the United Nations had met head-on with one of the most serious and potentially lethal problems of our time -- the destruction of the human ecology by man's own hand. The next urgent task, in his view, was to translate the vision and spirit of Stockholm into the reality of governmental action.

It was his feeling, however, that , in the long run, the Stockholm Conference might benefit the rich nations more than the poor ones. The link between the concept of environmental hazards and that of under-development was much too weak. The Stockholm resolutions in this area offered nothing new, he said, and the provisions regarding the Environment Fund hardly took account of the special requirements of the developing countries.

In this respect, he could see no reason why the Fund should be used mainly to finance new environmental initiatives, instead of also helping the least developed nations in the area of environmental consideration.

He went on to say that his delegation supported the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/L.1228, though it would have preferred to see some mention made in operative paragraph 9 of the special needs of the developing nations.

He also endorsed the drafts contained in documents A/C.2/L.1227 and L.1231

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AHMED HAMOUD AL-MAAMIRY (Oman) welcomed the fact that a number of delegations had announced the initial contributions of their Governments towards implementation of the recommendations of the Stockholm Conference.

Stating that its seas and oceans were the mainstay of his country's economic life, he said that his Government was looking forward to participating with others in preventing such dangerous practices as oil spillages by tankers and the washing of their tanks in the sea.

His delegation also looked forward to the co-operation and technical assistance of the United Nations and its specialized agencies in such fields as public housing, sanitation and water.

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U N I T E D N A T I O N S

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Twenty-seventh General Assembly
Second Committee, 1473rd Meeting (AM)

Press Release GA/EF/1411
26 October 1972

PROPOSAL ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS CONFERENCE AND DEMONSTRATION SUBMITTED TO SECOND COMMITTEE DURING ENVIRONMENT DEBATE

The General Assembly would decide to hold a "Conference/Demonstration on Human Settlements" and accept Canada's offer to serve as host for the event in 1975, under a draft resolution introduced this morning in the Second Committee (Economic and Financial).

The draft (document A/C.2/L.1235) was introduced by the representative of Canada as the Committee continued consideration of the report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held in Stockholm from 5-16 June 1972. It is co-sponsored by Egypt, Ghana, Libya, Netherlands, Philippines, Trinidad and Tobago and Yugoslavia.

This is the seventh draft resolution to be submitted to the Committee so far in its consideration of the report of the Stockholm Conference.

In addition to Canada, statements in the debate were made this morning by the representatives of Honduras, Cuba, Bulgaria, Byelorussia, Malaysia, Zambia, Bhutan, Brazil, Argentina and the United States.

The Committee will meet again at 3 p.m. today to continue the debate. Listed to speak then are Israel, Syria, Nepal, Thailand, Jamaica, Colombia, Greece, Tunisia, Nigeria and Sweden.

In addition to the proposal introduced this morning, the Committee has before it:

— A draft resolution by Algeria and 36 other States on international co-operation in the human environment field (document A/C.2/L.1227), to which Canada has submitted amendments (document A/C.2/L.1233);

— A draft resolution by Argentina and 10 other countries concerning institutional and financial arrangements for world environmental co-operation, including a Governing Council for environmental Programmes, an environment secretariat and an environment fund (document A/C.2/L.1288);

— A draft resolution by Argentina and 23 others concerning the Action Plan for the environment and proposing a World Environment Day (document A/C.2/L.1229/Rev.1);

— A draft resolution by Jamaica concerning assistance by development assistance agencies in housing and human settlements (document A/C.2/L.1230);

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— A draft resolution by Indonesia and four other countries on establishment of an international fund or financial institution for human settlements (document A/C.2/L.1231); and

— A draft resolution by Algeria and 11 other States seeking to ensure the compatibility of environment programmes and the International Development Strategy (document A/C.2/L.1234).

Statements in Debate

MRS. CLOTILDE DE COLMANT (Honduras) said her delegation considered that there should be follow-up efforts aimed at reconciling development and environmental protection. In that regard, increased efforts to transfer appropriate technology should be undertaken in the United Nations system.

Her delegation adhered to all the recommendations of the Stockholm Conference, and she said that Honduras, in planning its tourist industry, would take various Conference recommendations into account.

Her delegation would give its views later on the draft resolutions, she stated.

ABELARDO MORENO FERNANDEZ (Cuba) said the Stockholm Conference, in which his delegation did not participate, could have been one of the most important ever held if it had been governed by the principle of universality. However, the German Democratic Republic was kept out of the Conference as a result of "the stubborn attitude of international blackmail" adopted by many Western capitalist countries, especially the United States.

Now, when there was much talk of detente, it was clear which countries were perpetuating international ill will, he stated.

The only way that an under-developed country could halt the deterioration of its environment was by industrial development, he went on. The under-development of the developing countries was not an accidental phenomenon, but resulted from colonial and neo-colonial exploitation. Consequently, there should be increased aid to the developing countries from the developed countries which, with few exceptions, were responsible for the under-development of the "third world".

Expressing concern at the impact on international trade of the policies of the developed countries to prevent pollution, he stated that a situation might develop whereby the developing countries would be financing measures taken by developed countries to protect the environment. He also voiced concern at the "exaggerated emphasis" placed in the Conference report on the link between development and protection of the environment, on the one hand, and population growth on the other hand. Every country had a sovereign right to adopt population policies which it considered appropriate.

Referring to Viet-Nam, he said the United States was engaged in disrespecting all the values which the Stockholm Conference had been convened to defend. Not only were the people of Viet-Nam facing a great environmental problem, but the Palestinians were being robbed of their natural environment.

STEFAN TODOROV (Bulgaria) said the United Nations should not take as a point of departure the problems which affected a specific group of countries. It should ensure that the problems of all States, particularly developing countries, were taken into account.

Asserting that war was a major factor in the deterioration of the environment, he said the conflict in Viet-Nam and in the Territories under Portuguese domination provided "striking examples" of the fauna and flora of entire countries being destroyed for dozens of years to come. He called on the United Nations to denounce the acts of States which used means of "mass destruction" and thus damaged the environment "in an irreversible and irresponsible manner".

His delegation shared the view expressed by "the majority" of delegations that international co-operation on the human environment should be universal. The exclusion of the German Democratic Republic from the Conference had created obstacles for participation of an entire group of States, and his delegation could not yet take a position on the recommendations because it had not participated in the Conference. Further, it could not take a position on the draft resolutions before the Committee.

V.A. PALAGIN (Byelorussia) said that in capitalist societies, ameliorative measures regarding the environment were impeded because such measures reduced profits. Only mass protests and pressure on Governments had prompted results in those societies, he stated.

In socialist societies, the unshakable foundation of environmental action was State ownership of resources, he said, reviewing various measures adopted in his country.

His country had been forced not to participate in the Conference because of the exclusion of certain States, he went on.

Efforts in the field of environment must be organized on the basis of universality.

Pending further study, his delegation could not comment on the substance of the Conference results. Regarding the draft resolutions, his delegation could not support those that continued to apply discrimination regarding the participation of States.

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J.E.G. HARDY (Canada) reaffirmed his delegation's invitation to hold, in Canada in 1975, the United Nations Conference/Demonstration on Experimental Human Settlements, which had been recommended by the Stockholm Conference (document A/Conf.48/14, recommendation 2b).

It was clear, he stated, that the global ecological problem would deepen unless human settlement problems -- the primary source of environmental degradation -- were tackled. It was Canada's view that the Conference/Demonstration should combine meetings of Governments to discuss policy issues with projects to demonstrate new and effective approaches to a wide variety of human settlements problems. It would stimulate the innovation of thought and effort that must be applied to human settlements problems and encourage innovations by industry, governments and groups of citizens.

He said it was necessary to plan now for the Conference/Demonstration, and the draft resolution before the Committee (document A/C.2/L.1235) would enable that first step to be taken. Canada would contribute resources for the preparations and, in addition, would assume all financial costs associated with its role as host.

Mr. HARDY proposed that the Conference/Demonstration be held in Vancouver in the first two weeks of September 1975.

He then formally introduced the draft resolution (document A/C.2/L.1235) on behalf of its co-sponsors.

Miss P.G. LIM (Malaysia) said the results of the Stockholm Conference now faced the "crucial test of sincerity" and good intentions, and expressed support for the Declaration on the Human Environment and for the Action Plan.

Her delegation awaited the outcome of consultations on the composition of the Governing Council for Environmental Programmes, but felt that the membership should be selected on the basis of equitable geographical representation.

Welcoming the Environment Fund, she expressed the hope that its establishment would not lead to a diminution of resources for other United Nations organs such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Miss Lim considered that the representatives of the specialized agencies to be appointed to the Co-ordinating Board should be of the highest level. She welcomed the fact that the co-ordinating role was placed in the realm of the Economic and Social Council to which it properly belonged.

She felt that the delicate balance established in the draft resolution on co-operation between States, sponsored by Brazil and other delegations should not be upset and expressed the hope that some accommodation could be reached regarding the Canadian amendments to that draft, so that a vote could be avoided.

D. SIBAJENE (Zambia) said that his Government accepted a moral obligation to combat industrial pollution, but its efforts to that end were limited by national priorities that dictated the channeling of resources primarily for overcoming poverty.

It would not be difficult to vote for the draft resolution on the Action Plan and World Environment Day, he said.

Regarding the draft resolution on institutional and financial arrangements, he believed that the proposed distribution of seats in the Governing Council was not appropriate. The reason, he said, was that pollution due to under-development affected the developing countries far more than the developed, and the representation, therefore, of the former in the Governing Council should be distinctly greater. In a spirit of compromise, his delegation would settle for deletion of the phrase "following General Assembly resolution 2847 (XXVI)".

Further, it was his view that the environment secretariat should be located in Kenya, in accordance with the principles of universality and equitable geographical distribution.

His delegation welcomed the proposal for an Environment Fund, but said that the developed countries stood to gain most from its use. It was regrettable that certain of those countries had not made pledges at the recent Pledging Conference for the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and in that connexion he emphasized that contributions to the Environment Fund by developed countries should not adversely affect their economic assistance to the developing world.

Regarding the draft resolution introduced by Brazil on international co-operation, he was pleased that it referred to principle 20. His Government was anxious that prior consultations be provided for, particularly between riparian States, to determine whether harmful environmental effects would ensue in one country from projects in another. In that regard, he referred to the Cabora Bassa dam on the Zambezi river which, he said, was likely to harm Zambian families by flooding part of their land on the other side of the river. Portugal had failed to consult Zambia on that project, he stated.

KUNLAY WANGDI (Bhutan) stressed the difference in the nature of the environmental problems faced by the developed and developing countries.

Those of the developed countries resulted from their negligence in the industrial process and the exploitation of natural resources, he said. The environmental problems of the developing countries were primarily those of population explosion, mismanagement of their vast natural resources, unplanned industrialization, uncontrolled urbanization and poorly co-ordinated development.

To resolve the developing countries' problems, it was essential to improve the general economic and social conditions of the people. Thus, a firm link must be established between development and environment in their development programmes, he said.

He added that the industrialized countries which had the necessary resources and technical competence to attempt a solution should engage in research and application of non-polluting technology at the lowest possible cost which would not only solve their own problems but help the developing countries as well.

Referring to the draft resolution on institutional arrangements, he said that the quota of seats for Asian countries on the proposed Governing Council was inadequate and should be increased. He expressed the hope that the representatives of Brazil, Argentina and other sponsors of the draft resolution on the question of co-operation between States and the representative of Canada would seek to reach an accommodation before the Canadian amendments were put to the vote.

SERGIO ARMANDO FRAZAO (Brazil) said it was his belief that Canada was not in disagreement with the intention of the 52-Power draft resolution on internatiomaal co-operation, and it was not the intention of the co-sponsors of the draft to derogate from principles 21 and 22 of the Declaration.

Brazil, he recalled, had tried to strengthen those principles at Stockholm. He appealed to Canada and New Zealand not to press their amendments to a vote.

JULIO BARBERIS (Argentina) said his delegation was a co-sponsor of the draft resolution on the question of co-operation between States in which a delicate balance had been achieved after careful negotiations. The draft, he said, did not weaken or restrict principles 21 and 22 of the Declaration as feared by the representative of Canada, who had introduced amendments. Principles 21 and 22 had their own validity, he said.

BERNARD ZAGORIN (United States) said he was pleased that the draft resolution introduced by Brazil would enable the General Assembly to respond affirmatively to the matter referred to it by the Conference.

The draft, he said, was a useful resolution of the conflicting views expressed at Stockholm. In the judgement of the United States Government, nothing in the draft could affect the responsibility of States under principles 21 and 22 of the Declaration.

SAUL F. RAE (Canada) said that his delegation was not in a position to report his Government's reaction to the statements made. However, they would be referred to the Canadian authorities for consideration.

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Press Section
Office of Public Information
United Nations, N.Y.

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Twenty-seventh General Assembly
Second Committee, 1474th Meeting (PM)

Press Release GA/EF/1412
26 October 1972

SECOND COMMITTEE RECEIVES PROPOSAL ON ASSISTANCE TO GOVERNMENTS IN FIELD OF HOUSING AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Concludes Debate on Report of Stockholm Environment Conference

A draft resolution introduced this afternoon in the Second Committee (Economic and Financial) would have the General Assembly recommend that all development agencies give high priority to requests from Governments for assistance in the field of housing and human settlements.

The draft, sponsored by Jamaica, would also have the Assembly recommend that the World Bank, in establishing criteria for eligibility for loans under more favourable terms, should take into account such critical socio-economic factors as levels of unemployment and population density.

The draft (document A/C.2/L.1233) was formally presented this afternoon by the representative of Jamaica as the Committee concluded its debate on the report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held in Stockholm from 5 to 16 June 1972.

Also this afternoon, the representative of Turkey orally introduced a draft resolution which would have the Assembly welcome Iran's initiative at Stockholm in designating an area of land to be used for ecological research and in establishing an annual international prize for the outstanding contribution in the environment field.

Other statements were made this afternoon by the representatives of Israel, Nepal, Syria, Thailand, Colombia, Greece, Tunisia and Nigeria.

The Committee will not meet tomorrow, 27 October, in order to facilitate consultations among delegations on the number of draft resolutions tabled on this item.

It will reconvene at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, 30 October, to take up the report of the Industrial Development Board. Discussion of the report will be introduced by I. H. Abdel-Rahman, Executive Director of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

The Committee is expected to resume consideration of the human environment item on the following day, Tuesday, 31 October.

(more)

Proposals Before Committee

In addition to the Jamaican and Turkish drafts introduced this afternoon, the proposals before the Committee include:

— A draft resolution by Algeria and 36 other States on international co-operation in the human environment field (document A/C.2/L.1227), to which Canada has submitted amendments (document A/C.2/L.1233);

— A draft resolution by Argentina and 10 other countries concerning institutional and financial arrangements for world environmental co-operation, including a Governing Council for environmental Programmes, an environment secretariat and an environment fund (document A/C.2/L.1288);

— A draft resolution by Argentina and 23 others concerning the Action Plan for the environment and proposing a World Environment Day (document A/C.2/L.1229/Rev.1);

— A draft resolution by Indonesia and four other countries on establishment of an international fund or financial institution for human settlements (document A/C.2/L.1231);

— A draft resolution by Algeria and 11 other States seeking to ensure the compatibility of environment programmes and the International Development Strategy (document A/C.2/L.1234); and

— A draft resolution by Canada and seven other countries on a "Conference/Demonstration on Human Settlements" to be held in Canada in 1975 (document A/C.2/L.1235).

Statements in Debate

ISRAEL ELIASHIV (Israel), the first speaker this afternoon, reviewed some of the recent efforts and activities undertaken in Israel on the field of environment and stated that part of Israel's experience in trying to identify, research, and respond to its environment problems might be of relevance to developing nations, particularly in the area of water resource preservation and development as well as the treatment and recycling of waste water for agricultural and industrial applications.

The prerequisite for effective environmental co-operation, he declared, was a broad understanding by all groups of the dilemmas, choices and costs involved in combating pollution. In Israel, he said, environmental education had recently been introduced into every level of the school system.

ISHWARI RAJ PANDEY (Nepal) said the industrialized countries now had a greater responsibility to seek ways to implement measures aimed at reducing the economic and technological disparity between themselves and the developing world. He therefore welcomed those Conference recommendations and principles in the Environment Declaration which related to that disparity.

(more)

He supported the draft resolution on international co-operation and said he was optimistic that negotiations between its co-sponsors and those submitting amendments to it would reach agreement.

Regarding the draft on institutional and financial arrangements, he wished to see a delineation of the status of the proposed Governing Council within the United Nations framework. He believed that the geographical distribution of seats in the Council, as envisaged in the draft, was inequitable for Asia.

He went on to support the creation of an Environment Fund as a means of providing assistance in addition to, and not as a substitute for, the flow of resources envisaged in the International Development Strategy. Subject to those reservations, he supported the draft on institutional and financial arrangements, as well as the draft that would refer the environment Action Plan to the Governing Council and designate 5 June as World Environment Day.

Further, his delegation wished to request the Governing Council to take the development objectives of the emerging nations fully into account in its work. In that connexion, he called attention to the two draft resolutions before the Committee related to financial assistance for housing and human settlements, and referred to the need to safeguard vegetation from the pressure of population and human settlements. In his own country, he added, such pressure had already become a problem.

KEITH JOHNSON (Jamaica) said that it was essential to preserve the fragile balance of co-operation struck at Stockholm. However, it was evident so far that, while "we are treading softly, we already appear to be treading on different grounds".

The success of the Stockholm Conference should not be undermined by narrow self-interest on the part of any group of countries or the refusal of others fully to appreciate differing environmental problems, he stated. Referring to a statement made during the Assembly's recent general debate by the Prime Minister of Jamaica, he said his delegation attached high priority to housing and to an improvement in the quality of life and was concerned to see that recommendations 1, 15, 16, and 17 of the Stockholm Conference were implemented.

He hoped that the original opposition at Stockholm to recommendation 17, which proposed an international fund or financial institution for housing, stemmed more from lack of understanding of its objectives and proposed operations than from any basic disagreement with the idea itself.

He welcomed the recent statement by the World Bank on urbanization in which it recognized, he said, the link between housing and over-all social and economic development.

Introducing his delegation's draft resolution seeking to have the World Bank give high priority to request to Governments for assistance in the field of housing and human settlements (document A/C.2/L.1230), Mr. Johnson said the proposal was firmly based on recommendation 1 of the Conference. Implementation of that recommendation was one of the fundamental tests on which the ultimate success of the Stockholm Conference would be judged.

HISHAM METWALLI (Syria) said that economic growth in the under-consumption societies be such as to enable them to avoid the growth pattern followed by the consumption societies.

His delegation insisted that the development of the emerging nations should occupy a major place in the activities of the new environmental machinery. It also supported the demand by the representative of Libya for the removal of land mines of the Second World War from Libyan soil.

The Syrian Government, he said, was taking the necessary measures to make Damascus the centre for environmental activities in the Middle East.

ANAND PANYARACHUN (Thailand) said the relevant principles emerging from the Stockholm Conference were being studied by his Government so as to incorporate them in its third five-year plan.

He regretted the absence from the Conference of a number of States, and he hoped that a way would be found to make the work in the field of environment universal in character.

Referring to the draft resolution on co-operation between States, he said the amendments proposed by Canada merited attention. However, he hoped that a compromise arrangement could be reached.

As for the draft resolution on institutional and financial arrangements, his delegation could not accept the principles embodied in General Assembly resolution 2847 (XXVI) as forming the basis for distribution of seats in the Governing Council for Environmental Affairs. Making more seats on the Council available to developing countries would enable them to maintain and quicken their interest in environmental problems. There was no reason why the Council should be limited to 54 members, he observed.

SANTIAGO FONSECA-MARTINEZ (Colombia) said the developed countries should be the major contributors to the Environment Fund. However, such contributions should not affect present financing arrangements and commitments. It would be unacceptable if the funding of programmes aimed at correcting the deterioration of the environment were allowed to create new obstacles to the growth of developing countries.

(more)

The Stockholm Conference, which dealt with the survival of mankind, had served to give the United Nations a new image, he said. While his delegation supported the establishment of an environmental fund, it did not think that such new elements should limit the process of growth of the developing countries or paralyse their programmes of industrialization.

He supported the draft resolution on establishment of an international fund for human settlements and also the proposal that the World Bank accord priority to requests from Governments for assistance in housing and human settlements. He suggested, however, that the two texts be merged.

The environment secretariat should be located in a country where diplomatic representatives of the majority of States and organizations similar to the proposed body were already located, he said.

ELIAS GOUNARIS (Greece) said the Declaration, the Action Plan and the draft resolution on institutional and financial arrangements constituted a single package which should be adopted without delay. He stressed the importance of implementing the Conference decisions.

His delegation believed that the Environment Fund should be confined to environmental problems, although its proper use could not but contribute to development. He reserved the right to intervene at a later stage.

Miss FAIKA FAROUK (Tunisia) said that her country, while being a co-sponsor of the draft resolution on institutional and financial arrangements, did not consider the distribution of seats proposed in that draft to be the only solution. By co-sponsoring the draft on international co-operation, her delegation wished to express its satisfaction with the reconciliation of views it represented.

Tunisia, she pointed out, was also a co-sponsor of the draft to refer the Action Plan to the Governing Council and to designate a "World Environment Day" and the draft on the promotion of effective regional environmental programmes.

Environment, she said, must be seen from the viewpoint of the interdependence between developing and developed countries and of the need for solidarity of their goals.

Tunisia which adhered to that point of view, would play its part nationally, regionally and internationally. Regarding the regional framework, she called attention to the questions of the continuing presence of Second World War mines in north Africa and of pollution of the Mediterranean Sea.

Tunisia, she said, was a candidate for a seat in the proposed Governing Council.

(more)

GREGORY I. ARUEDE (Nigeria) suggested that the environment secretariat should be located in a developing country so that the interest of the developing countries in the problems of the environment would be stimulated and maintained. His delegation could not accept the argument that the developing countries lacked the facilities for housing the secretariat, for if so, the "vicious circle" would never end.

An international fund on the question of human settlements was of crucial importance to the developing countries and should be established despite the usual reluctance to set up special funds, he stated. It would go a long way towards ensuring that the crusade to preserve the environment would not deal exclusively with problems affecting the developed countries.

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